

AS A MULTIGENERATIONAL CHURCH, WE INVEST OURSELVES IN YOUNGER  
GENERATIONS TO GROW RESILIENT DISCIPLES AND THRIVING FAMILIES

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Gateway Church**  
**1111 Dry Hollow Road**  
**The Dalles, Oregon 97058**  
**Phone: 541-298-8531**  
**Office Hours**  
**Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am-3:00 pm**

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Pastor John Geiter

"The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

God speaks daring words of hope to the children of Israel at a time when optimism for the future seemed far away. Though it is a dark time, God reminds them that He is the faithful one who is still with them. Though our world can feel dark and is dark, Zephaniah offers us a glimpse at God's heart and faithfulness. Our God is a mighty savior who fights for us, and in Jesus, even sheds His own blood on our behalf. He takes delight in us and loves us. He sings over us as a protective mother sings over her child. As we think over this past year and the coming one, may we live in the hope that is our God.

God has called Gateway to partner with Him in His mission for us. Our mission statement is: "As a multigenerational church, we invest ourselves in younger generations to grow resilient followers of Jesus and thriving families." Throughout this year, your elders and pastors' goal has been to keep this mission at the forefront of all we do as a church.

A few of what we are doing that is new:

- Pastor David Mettler has joined us this year on staff, providing needed support to young families, children, and youth. His leadership role will grow in considering the church's discipleship this coming year.
- Last year, Gateway voted to experiment with a new church government for two years. Elders will be helping our pastors lead the church in vision and discernment and keeping our focus on our new mission statement. Ministry coordinators will be more of the hands and feet of Gateway's ministries.
  - o Our ministry coordinators are Scott Hege – Stewardship; Mark and Valerie Kendrick – Worship; Garth Miller – Missions; Deanna Geiter – Hospitality; John Byers – Buildings and Grounds; Karen Riese and Nancy Stroh – Children and Willie Riese – Youth.
  - o Deacons likewise remain essential to ministering inside and outside our church body.
- Our sanctuary took on a decidedly new and younger feel by replacing our pews with chairs, new carpet, and freshly painted walls.
- Multigenerational mission trip to Mexico supporting the Thompson family.

A few of what we have been doing:

- Youth group and Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School – July; Fall Festival – October; Christmas Fair – December

Community meals – throughout the year

- Scripture memorization: John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 5:15, Lamentations 3:23, Luke 11:9-10, Habakkuk 3:18, Zephaniah 3:17, Psalm 67:1-2, Hosea 6:3, Isaiah 12:2, Psalm 116:1-2, John 1:14
- Community groups, Bible study groups, Prayer groups, Alpha Marriage course, Prayer class and Emotionally Healthy Discipleship

There are too many people to thank for making this past year so beautiful. Thank You!

I am so excited about what God is up to in our midst. He is leading and guiding us into His plans for us. Let us keep our eyes firmly locked on Jesus, our mighty warrior who saves, loves, and rejoices over us.

In God's grip, because His is always the strong one,  
Pastor John

## David Mettler – Annual Report

What a year 2023 has been! Just about a year ago I was sensing God's prompting me to apply for the Associate Pastor position. That week, the first Sunday in January, I was preparing to preach on the baptism of Jesus. It became a lesson for me in messy obedience. I was challenged to step out in trust even when things didn't fit into my neat, pre-conceived boxes. Through several months of questions and conversations, I was encouraged to see how God was leading the PNC and all of you as a church body. What a gift it has been to discern God's will together.

While August 8th marked the official start date, I would say that Fall/Winter of 2023 could be summarized as an "on-boarding" process. I've been learning a lot about how things work- visiting different teams, experiencing the culture, getting plugged into new areas of church life, and finding out the processes involved in working together. The highlights for me are almost always hearing stories and testimonies from individuals in our congregation and visitors to our outreach events. Stories establish meaningful connections and have allowed me to hear your hearts. Please keep sharing them!

Maybe you're wondering if I've got a strategy or goal in mind... As an associate pastor, I recognize that I play a supporting role in helping us live together into our shared vision. I feel that it's important to honor what is/has been and make decisions together regarding where we sense God is leading us to go.

With that in mind, I'm especially grateful for the opportunities that I have to come alongside Pastor John, the Children's and Youth Ministry teams. It's been a joy to see what both the youth and children's ministry teams have accomplished, especially coming out of several years of disruption. I've also enjoyed participating in every area of corporate worship- music, preaching, moderating, praying, and leading communion. And of course, I've been grateful for opportunities to connect with families in a variety of contexts- after/before church, over coffee or a meal, at a group get-together, or wherever!

What might 2024 look like? Here are some thoughts so far:

- Exploring implications for our multi-generational vision: allowing younger and older generations opportunity to mutually encourage each other's faith life
- Working more closely with the Children's Ministry Team to build on our foundation
- Finding ways to connect with and support our young/middle age families through meals and coffees together, formal and informal gatherings
- One-on-one or small group meetings where we listen for God's activity in our daily lives, aka "spiritual direction"
- Developing a discipleship plan with Pastor John that's informed by Bridgetown's "Practicing the Way" program
- Preparing for and taking the ECO Ordination exams

It's been said that it takes quite a while to "break in" a new pastor... so I would like to say thank you here to each one of you. I appreciate your patience, guidance, and encouragement as we continue to grow together!

## Visitation Report

The position of Pastor of Visitation provides anyone in our congregation the opportunity of a visit in person, or by phone or email for prayer, or discussion, along with the assistance of the Deacons. I have met people in hospital emergency rooms, pre-surgery rooms and post-surgery visits, home visits for long term or terminal illnesses as well as phone and email contacts for a 2023 total of 166 contacts.

If you are aware of someone who has been sent to the emergency room or hospital, feel free to contact me at - [lafeverdd@gmail.com](mailto:lafeverdd@gmail.com) or 541-999-0971.

Dick LaFever

Pastor of Visitation

Staff Report 2023  
Administrative Assistant/Church Secretary

My goals for 2023 were as follows:

1. Spending time learning more computer skills and better knowledge of the Website.
2. Cleaning and organizing Dropbox files.
3. Learn about the new telephone system when it comes.

Achievements in 2023:

1. Each month I have spent time learning new computer skills. I have learned to develop spreadsheets in Xcel, learned to put images on the website, learned to create PowerPoint presentations from start to finish, and have learned how to put pictures in the church directory.
2. I did accomplish cleaning up the drop box files and organized the files to be more efficient.
3. We had the new phone system put in and have learned how to use the phones.
4. I set up a few back up systems so on Sunday mornings everything should run smoothly if we lose files or hard copies.
5. I started training Allyson Schock as a back up for my vacations or out sick.

Goals for 2024:

1. Continue to learn more computer skills.
2. Complete the training of Allyson Schock.
3. Work on praying for people who stop in my office, especially those that don't go to church and are needing help.

In conclusion:

Thank you for another year to serve you as your Church Secretary.

Sandy Mendez

## 2023 Gateway Family & Friends Updates

### New Covenant Partners:

Eldon & Kandi Billups  
Bruce & Jeanine Dirksen  
Allan & Bev Eagy  
Ed & Ella Hogan  
Velda Pierce

### Baptisms:

Dayna Elledge	7/2/2023
Rose Marie Miller	7/2/2023
Michael Parker-Lee	7/2/2023
Juda Vergori	7/2/2023

### Marriages:

Jonathan & Monica Snodgrass 9/08/2023

### Letter of Transfers Received:

### Membership Removal:

### Deaths:

Kaarin Brown	1/19/2023
DickVoll	5/04/2023
Michael Telfer	6/23/2023
Kim Johnson	7/26/2023
Marilyn Keys	9/08/2023
Bill Humble	9/17/2023
Susie Meyer	12/14/2023
Afton Foote	12/24/2023

### Funerals Held at Gateway:

Connie Sigsbee	2/11/2023
Kaarin Brown	2/18/2023
Theron Keller	6/24/2023
Michael Telfer	7/09/2023
Kim Johnson	8/05/2023
Elisa Sandoce (Petersen)	9/23/2023

There were 46 individuals/families that visited Gateway in 2023

## Deacons Year End Report For 2023

The Gateway family has been generous, again, this past year in serving the needs of our congregation and community! Our budget is separate from the general Gateway budget so any monies donated go directly to helping people.

### For our Congregation:

Numerous "Gift Bags" were provided throughout the year, welcoming visitors to Gateway.

The "Coffee Connection" continues to be a fellowship center between services providing goodies and coffee.

20 families/youth group received 55 meals through the year in support during loss or illness.

18 food boxes were provided to our congregation and community this past Christmas. Thirty-three children were provided gifts in celebration of Christ's birthday.

We provided support to six families in the loss of their loved one through cookies and coffee during their loved one's celebration of life.

A total of 142 cards were sent to our congregation for support during sickness, loss, congrads, birthdays, etc.

### For our community:

Throughout the year, 24 food bags were provided to those in need as well as about 219 "Snack Packs" that congregation members handed out to those needing food.

Gateway's family served six community meals to the homeless through St. Vincent DePaul's Community Meal Center.

Gods love was spread throughout the world by the "shoebox" project when 80 boxes were sent out to kids.

Deacons have donated hats, socks, shorts, pants and gloves of various sizes to the children at dry Hollow. As well as school supplies at the beginning of the school year. A community bible study group provided Valentine treats and cards. During Teacher conferences, we provided treats for the teachers at both Dry Hollow and Colonel Wright. For teacher appreciation, we had a Banana split Sundae bar. And we have church members who go read with the students. We have spent around \$650.00 for supplies and clothes. Thank you to all who donate to the Deacon fund!

We will continue with serving our congregation and our community.



## **Buildings and Grounds**

### **2023 Annual Report**

The Buildings and Grounds ministry strives to ensure that there is a warm welcoming place for Gateway Church members, staff, and anyone using the facilities, to worship, work, conduct meetings or fellowship events.

Buildings and Grounds, is responsible for Gateway Church campus and infrastructure. The campus area is comprised of two large buildings, the grounds, the parking lot and the vacant lot adjacent to the parking lot. Gateway owns three rental houses, which are managed by a property management company.

Routine maintenance and upkeep is handled by B&G. Minor repairs (type that a homeowner would take care of on their own) are done by the B&G team. If there is a major problem or issue, the team looks to outside businesses for repairs. A janitorial service takes care of the cleaning of both buildings. All other landscaping is done by B&G, assisted by volunteers when available. Buildings and Grounds makes sure that the irrigation system is functional. Repairs are contracted out. The upkeep (painting, lighting, etc.) of the building interior is accomplished by B&G.

Much appreciated is John Byers and his Monday morning work crew. This team has taken on the task of taking care of the grounds and facilities. They have spent approximately 350 hours over five months doing many jobs. Some examples are:

- Clean up the rental houses back yards
- Paint walls and replace carpet in Sandy's office
- Upper sidewalk replacement to be more ADA compliant
- Facilitated the removal of three tree stumps on the upper lawn
- Arranged for a new snow removal company
- Arranged for sump pump repairs, and location of vault
- Repaired basketball area damage in upper building
- Installed handrail on stage in sanctuary
- Arranged for removal of ivy, in prep for future landscaping
- Painted several areas on campus
- Made the upper rest rooms more ADA compliant

This is just a small sample of the many jobs that this team has taken on. There are several jobs that will require financing and/or contractor assistance. Security of churches is becoming a major concern. This team would like to see a camera system installed, and a team of people willing to be in the lobby area during both services.

If you are interested in participating on the Monday morning work crew, please contact John Byers.

Buildings and Grounds elder: Bob Canavan

## **Children's Ministry 2023 Annual Report**

It amazing to think Children's Ministry offered the first official Sunday School on May 9, 2021 after Covid. 2023 proved to be another significant year in solidifying the foundation that was establish in 2021 and 2022. For example:

- Just two years ago there were only 10 volunteers and today there are approximately 30 volunteers engaged in the program.
- While Safety, Health and Emergency protocols were established in 2022, the Team continued to evaluate, enhance and change the protocols based on staff feedback and real-life experience.
- CMT was also excited to welcome our new Associate Pastor of Family Ministries David Mettler who will minister beside the CMT and provide overall direction and continuity to the Team and program.

Below are 2023 significant CMT Events:

- Hosted Children's Wing Open House.
- Formalized ministry organization by identifying specific functional areas and assigning leads.
- Conducted Teacher Training to review emergency protocols and teacher resources.
- Continued to update and revise Safety and Health protocols based on teacher input and learning.
- Palm Sunday Parade
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Vacation Bible School
- Hosted an Open House to meet Pastor Mettler
- Children's Christmas Play

It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, none of this could be done without our Sunday School Teachers, Childcare Givers and our many volunteers! Kudos to Karen Reese, Nancy Stroh, Cheryl Schwinof and Bonnie Shute who has shaped, planned, directed and implemented our Children's Ministry. We also want to welcome Connie Karp, Phyllis Turner and Linda Wendt to the Team and farewell to Bonnie Shupe who retired this year. Thank You Bonnie for your commitment and tireless work!

## Missions Ministry Team 2023 Annual Report

Dear Gateway Congregation,

Our Missions Ministry Team is excited about how God has blessed and strengthened the ministries and missionaries that Gateway supports both locally and overseas in 2023. Our team includes Mary Jo Taylor, Bill Fisher (remotely) and Garth Miller. Kim Johnson served with us until July of this year, when she went to be with the Lord. We miss her and are thankful for her dedication to missions and love of ministry.

We want to thank the Gateway congregation for your generosity as your tithes and offerings have directly supported the work God is doing through His servants for His kingdom. We enjoy keeping in contact with the missionaries we support throughout the year and want to share some highlights with you about our Missions Ministry.

As a congregation we have been able to financially and prayerfully partner with over ten different missionaries and ministries globally and locally. Some of these include local organizations such as YES House, and globally we support missionaries that include Andrew and Beka Riese, Trudy Kempton, Ryan and Erin Long and Gabe and Bethany Thompson family. Other missionaries we support include Lee and Julie Davis with Cru as well as Gilles and Gloria Gravelle, and Gary and Linda Simmons, Michelle Omar and Peter and Rose Nguyen.

In August of 2023 we were able to send a team of 12 people to Vicente Guerrero in Baja, Mexico to help in ministry at Foundation for His Ministry. We were also able to see the work that the Thompson family is now involved in. As an outgrowth of Gateway's Mission, this was a multigenerational team that ranged in age from 7-60. They had the opportunity to invest in the lives of young people at the mission as well as serve alongside and get to know one another as a group sent by Gateway. The goal of this mission trip was to serve Christ by serving others and to see how God would grow each member of the team in their faith. We hope to continue with multigenerational mission trips like this on a regular basis moving forward.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Love in Christ,

Garth Miller

## Personnel Report 2023

This year was marked by two main events which were supporting the transition of the Music Coordinator position and supporting the PNC in their selection and offer process for our new Associate Pastor. We also recommended staff salary adjustments, working in conjunction with Session.

Our role continues to be prayerful support of staff , making ourselves available for questions and ideas, and assistance with policies and decision making as personnel issues arise.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Cunningham, Valerie Kendrick, and David Brewer

## Session Accountability Team Annual Report

The Session Accountability Team is comprised of 3 serving elders appointed by Session each year with one designated as facilitator. Duties of the Session Accountability Team as described in the Gateway Church Guiding Principles are to assure the integrity of Session's process for monitoring the performance of the Pastor/Head of Staff and communicating results of that performance evaluation to the Pastor/Head of Staff. The team also works with the Clerk of Session to assure all responsibilities of Session for church governance are systematically scheduled to be addressed throughout the year within the meeting agendas. These responsibilities of Session are described in the Gateway Church Guiding Principles and Gateway Church Retained Session Authority documents that are available upon request.

Recall from the 2023 Congregational Meeting that the congregation voted to place sections of Gateway's Bylaws on hold for up to 2 years to allow a trial period for instituting our new governance model. This first year has been spent putting the systems in place for that governance model as described below. The guiding principles include Mission Principles based on Gateway's Vision Frame, Boundary Principles that set the boundaries within which Pastors, Ministry Coordinators and staff may operate in pursuing Gateway's mission, and Accountability Principles that define how Session will hold the Pastor/Head of staff accountable in the pursuit of the mission, and hold Session itself accountable to the mission and stated responsibilities.

In 2023, Session approved the Guiding Principles and Retained Session Authority documents, which will be reviewed by Session each year. Specific missional goals for Pastor John were deferred this year as he was developing an organizational structure for ministries in alignment with Gateway's mission, integrating our new Associate Pastor of Family Ministries, Pastor David, into that organizational structure, and recruiting Ministry Coordinators. Meanwhile Session has been going through a discernment process for pursuing God's will together. Session hopes to use this process to corporately determine which elders will remain serving on Session before the trial period ends in early 2025. Additionally, Session was able to schedule meetings in a way that emphasized spiritual growth, worship, and prayer alternating each month with meetings that emphasized "business items." In doing so, Session substantially reduced its time and attention discussing operational details that are more appropriately addressed through ministry leaders under the guidance of pastors (with reporting by pastors to Session for oversight). Noticeable improvements under the new model included redirecting decisions within ministries back to the leaders of those ministries within the boundaries of their budgets and mission (trusting their leadership and expertise), eliminating unnecessary delays for approval of missional activities (including directing of camp scholarships for children), and addressing personnel issues in a well-defined, objective, and confidential manner focused on improvement.

A calendar to systematically address Session's responsibilities through the year has been drafted to guide meeting agendas in 2024. In 2024, significant landmarks for the Session Accountability Team will be to assure Session receives measurable missional goals from Pastor John, to guide Session in developing a system for Pastor/Head of Staff performance evaluation, and to communicate the results of that performance evaluation to Pastor John. We intend that by the 2025 congregational meeting, Session will request approval by the congregation of amended bylaws to end the trial period and establish Gateway's new governance structure.

Respectfully submitted by the 2023 Session Accountability Team

Valerie Kendrick

Gary Grossman

Keith Stelzer (Facilitator)

Stewardship Ministry Team  
2023 Annual Report

**The current members of the Stewardship Ministry Team:** Paul Snedecor Church Treasurer, John Geiter Senior Pastor, Scott Hege Ministry Coordinator, Sue Hinatsu, and Connie Karp.

**Purpose and Responsibility**

Stewardship is responsible for oversight of church finances. Each month income and expense reports are monitored, then shared with Session.

During the budget process Stewardship supports Ministry Teams as they project their budget needs for the upcoming year. The final budget approval is voted on by Session at the December meeting.

**2024 Budget**

- A \$100,000 of designated funds has been moved to income. These funds were set aside a number of years ago to help cover new staff salary.
- Connections Ministry line item has been replaced with Discipleship, Deacons and Hospitality.
- Discipleship includes Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Community Groups, and Young Adult Ministry.
- Deacons includes expenses for Coffee Connection and Welcome Center.
- Hospitality includes Fellowship Events and Kitchen Supplies.

Stewardship Ministry Team

# Gateway Church

## Actuals 2023, Budget 2023 and Budget 2024

	ACTUAL 2023	BUDGET 2023
<b>INCOME</b>		
General Fund Contributions	291,002.85	331,693.12
Missions Contributions	3,101.60	3,033.02
Online Contributions	161,233.54	139,703.38
Loose Offering	7,024.45	7,434.77
Building Fund	28,000.00	6,900.00
Building Use Contributions	1,990.00	1,450.00
Interest Income	517.24	56.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>492,869.68</u>	<u>490,271.09</u>
<b>Money from designated fund for AP</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Children's Ministry	5,256.36	8,100.00
Youth Ministry	3,951.83	7,100.00
Worship	14,737.74	16,949.00
Connections Ministry	4,297.39	7,200.00
Discipleship	0.00	0.00
Deacons	0.00	0.00
Hospitality	0.00	0.00
Local & Global Missions	60,601.63	63,400.00
Building and Grounds	70,014.83	71,312.00
Leadership and Development	440.61	3,900.00
Salaries and Benefit	283,082.62	336,377.68
Administration	57,234.73	64,155.59
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>499,617.74</u>	<u>578,494.27</u>
<b>NET</b>	<u>-6,748.06</u>	<u>-88,223.18</u>

### Cash in bank end of 2023

General Fund	218,749.94
Designated Fund	135,938.73
Rental Fund	31,787.55
Reserve Fund	28,768.25
Deacon Fund	6,965.96

## Worship Coordinator 2023 Report

As we lived into the mission of Gateway, in 2023 we welcomed several younger Gateway family members into the music ministry, particularly Laura Johnson, Kyleigh Thomson, and Christopher Rankin for the second service. We feel this has assisted this ministry to be able to include a more diverse age range of people to enter worship through song. We've had five distinct team leaders for praise in the second service which are: John Geiter, Mark & Valerie Kendrick, Melissa & David Mettler, Tim & Jamie Vergori, and Kyleigh Thomson. Embracing a variety of styles that each team brings also enhances appreciation of the wide variety of ways God ministers to us. First service attenders have also experienced a greater variety of hymnal song selection over 2023, which brings back memories of our varied church upbringings.

We hosted a couple all-team gatherings this past year, one for idea sharing and connection last spring and one for relationship building in December. Team leaders have also met for planning purposes and connection.

The sanctuary renovations with new paint, carpet, chairs, new sound booth, and the cross update has been a welcome and needed enhancement to our facility this year. A large monitor screen in the foyer has been installed and activated and as we look to the future in 2024, additional screens in various places will provide visuals, announcements, and a five-minute until service countdown. Other plans are new software for visuals and a computerized lighting system.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Kendrick



## Youth Ministry Team Annual Report

Special thanks to many for the variety of ways in which you have served Jesus and youth in our ministry over the last year: Weekly leaders, monthly leaders, substitute leaders, intercessors, and meal-and-or-dessert-makers. It has been an immense blessing to work with more and more members of the congregation in investing ourselves in the lives of these young people.

**2023 Highlights:** We continued to serve about 20-25 young people each week (from a roster of about 45), the vast majority of which do not regularly attend church anywhere. And we continued to see new students almost every Wednesday. While a downside of having newcomers each week is the type of behavioral disruptions many of them tend to bring to the group, the stunning thing we saw over time is how every student that keeps coming grows quite rapidly in maturity and socialization.

God has accomplished this in two ways: First, the faithful prayer cover that has become part of this ministry's DNA – we are especially grateful to the small group of intercessors that meets on Wednesdays right next door to the youth room and lifts each student up by name; and second, the tremendous staff of caring, patient, but firm leaders who serve as Jesus's vessels in loving discipline.

In the matter of most importance, the Gospel, we still find ourselves in a season of seed-planting. In small groups and big group we continually share the basic core of our faith. Few students would affirm their status as disciples of Jesus yet – please keep praying!

**2023 Lowlights:** Kim Johnson had served in this youth ministry for three decades. It was difficult to say, "See you later," with a very long wait now ahead. It was also extremely hard to see the departures of the graduating class of 2023, as well as leaders Mark Renken and Audrey Hinatsu – all of these people were at the very nucleus of Gateway's youth ministry for many years. We look forward to serving with them again someday.

It is as difficult to be young today as it has ever been. These students endure some of the hardest things imaginable. Serving them in the midst of their trials is a privilege, but often not an easy one. Please know what an impact your prayer support can bring to this ministry.

### 2024 Goals:

- Further grow and develop the leader team and spread out various responsibilities according to callings and giftings.
- Continue developing relationships with other local youth ministries and seeking ways in which we can collaborate for the sake of God's Kingdom and these youth.

Sincere thanks for your prayers and support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Willie Riese, elder serving YMT