



Mile One Mission

Church Service

On June 6, 2021, Kilbride Community Church held its first church service in the community of Kilbride!

Not only is the first service a significant milestone in the life of a church, but this is the first evangelical service that Kilbride has had in its 132 year history.

Not everything went according to plan, however.

Let me backtrack about 6 months.

In December 2020, we attempted to have our first church service to end off the year. As much as we planned and prepared for the service, the weather got the best of us.

In what felt like a twist of irony, the only day in December that the skies decided to open up and snow on, was the day that we tried to have a service.¹ Considering that there were people attending who had travelled a significant distance, I made the decision to postpone the service so people could travel safely



¹ In fact, the only day that it snowed in December 2020 was the day we tried to have a service.

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/ca/monthly/newfoundland-and-labrador/st-johns/a1e6a5/E3625264?year=2020&month=12&dispt=calendar-container-monthly>

back in those unfavourable conditions. Although it was a bit disheartening, we instead decided to have a quick time of prayer before heading home.

Fast forward to June 6, 2021.

With our experiences behind us, we approached June 6th not wanting to leave any stone unturned!

Leading up to the service, the KCC team spent considerable amount of time making sure that all the t's were crossed and i's dotted. Now, truth be told, it does snow in St. John's from time to time in June but not even the weather was going to stop us from worshipping God.

So we prepared, packed things up and headed to the community Centre (again). We were all fairly pumped for what was about to happen.

After arriving, I walked up to the main doors and was greeted with a big, white piece of paper saying

"<— — CHURCH GROUP DOWNSTAIRS"

[INSERT CONTEMPLATIVE PAUSE HERE]

I thought to myself, "*That's weird*" and proceeded to the side door into the downstairs area. As I walked in I was greeted by a volunteer worker who had informed me that we would have the whole downstairs area for our gathering. The upstairs area was booked for another event at the same time that we were having our service.

I was confused. This wasn't part of my plan. My plan was to have our first service in the large auditorium area upstairs, not the basement where they have their kids programs.

Panic set in.

Where will people sit?

Can we even do this considering existing COVID space recommendations?

How will they see around this huge support beams?

What if they don't see the sign on the front door?

Why happened to our reservation for the upstairs area?

After a moment of taking it all in, I stepped aside of myself and realized both how absolutely selfish and sinful I was being and how incredibly blessed we were to have a space to worship under.

No, this wasn't where I wanted to be for the first service but it was exactly where God wanted us to be.

And so, we got to work.

In 90 minutes we rearranged the space, set up projection and music equipment, had a quick practice set for the musicians and worked out any kinks that we could see. It was fantastic!

Here's a quick time-lapse video of a portion of the setup:

<https://fb.watch/67m0Gq3aVb/>

After everything was said and done, we had 22 people in attendance.



Truth be told, everything worked out far better than what I had imagined.

In June we were also approached by TGC Canada and NAMB (North American Mission Board) to write an article describing what it was like to have KCC's first service in Kilbride. Below are the two links:

TGC Canada Article

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/article/kilbride-community-church-the-first-evangelical-church-in-kilbrides-132-year-history/>

NAMB Article

<https://www.namb.net/send-network/resource/church-plant-holds-communitys-first-gospel-centered-service-in-132-years/>

Psalm 23

Another aspect of the day that weighed heavily on my mind was discerning the first sermon. In the life of a church, you will only ever get to preach “one” first sermon. There will only ever be “one” first service. And, as I thought about it, I didn’t just want to preach any ol’ sermon for the sake of preaching a sermon. I wanted the first sermon to set the course for us as a little church plant.

After having many conversations and praying about what the Lord wanted me to preach on, I landed on Psalm 23: The Good Shepherd.

Not only is it a fantastic passage to preach on but its one that is extremely relevant for a church plant that’s getting off the ground.



It’s very easy for us to miss what’s happening here in this Psalm. It’s very easy for us to look at all the benefits that comes with keeping our eyes on the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd provides fields of rest and an area for the sheep to rest in, he leads his flock beside still waters, he leads them down the right paths, he restores them, and he protects them and assures them in the darkest valleys, etc., etc.

But it is the Shepherd and Shepherd alone who leads them.

He leads them to the fields, **he leads** them to the still waters, **he leads** them to the areas of rest and food; **he leads** them down the right paths even and **he leads** them through the darkest valleys.

In every aspect of the sheep’s journey, it is the Shepherd that is leading him.

And this is the message that I wanted KCC to hear at its first church service.

We had service #1.

I don’t know what the future holds and neither does my team. No doubt we will walk through seasons of drought, dryness, uncertainty, anxiety, testing, persecution, danger, and attack, but we can be certain that the Good Shepherd is leading us even when the valley itself is dark and foreboding.

Preaching James

In June I continued preaching my way through the Book of James for Calvary Baptist. This month I rounded out Chapter 3 and talked about wisdom, particularly the difference between heavenly and demonic wisdom.

<https://youtu.be/5s3X9UZiQXw>

Father's Day OutReach

We had a fantastic opportunity to come alongside dad's on Father's Day 2021. Much like we did for



Mother's Day, we partnered with a local business and handed out A&W Root beer and Dad's cookies to people for a few hours.

Although we experienced a brief bout of rain, it wasn't enough to deter us from being out in the community.

One of the things that really impressed upon me on the day was having people recognize Kilbride Community Church from other outreach initiatives that we've done in the past; I say this only because of how arduous and difficult it can be to establish a church, let alone a new church in a community that's

never had a church.

But to paint a picture of what KCC is up against, we had numerous people ask us where they can give donations. Now, there's nothing wrong with people wanting to give donations, and many people do it, but this mentality of "nothing comes for free" is so deeply engrained that a simple act of giving away root beer is treated with suspicion. Added, it's not often that a church does anything in the public.

For many people, church is a come and see affair rather than a go and tell. Not only are we trying to breakdown cultural barriers and misconceptions about church, but we do it against deeply held traditions.