

## MINISTRY REPORTS (2020-21) AND FORECAST (2021-22)

### OVERVIEW (Pastor Craig)

Our ministries of Taft Ave have weathered the storm of 2020 and are looking to the year to come and the future. **This has been a strategic time.** The pandemic restrictions have **pushed us to be innovative in many ministry areas.** In other ways, it has allowed us to engage in something of a **sabbatical and re-thinking several ministries.**

**We are blessed with solid staff and volunteer leads for our ministries,** which you can see below in the various ministry reports. **Our staff meets weekly** to take care of the day-to-day operations of the church, **our Elders meet twice a month** for business (1st Monday) and prayer (3rd Monday), while the broader **Ministry Leadership Team (a mix of staff, elders, and volunteer leads) meets once a quarter** for updates, planning, review, and budgeting.

We continue to see an **increase in our attendance (+25%) and giving (up \$8k)** through 2020 and into 2021. We will be adding new members at the congregational meeting. These are solid objective signs that God is at work. But more importantly, there is a sense among our congregation that God is at work here at Taft Ave and in our community. We are anticipating that God will move! We continue to affirm our values in this season of revitalization across all our ministries:

- Anticipating God will Move
- Removing Distractions, Calling Attention to God
- The Overwhelming Value of Each Person
- A Congregation of Growing People

-Love God. Love Others. Love Orange.-

We hope you are encouraged by the reports that follow!

### FRONT DOOR MINISTRY (Gary and Cheryl Hagan, volunteer leads)

**Our purpose is to represent Taft Avenue as the friendly and loving church we are as we greet and welcome everyone who enters our doors.**

This past year: The Front Door Ministry came to a screeching halt as our front doors were closed for 42 Sundays due to Covid.

This upcoming year 2021-2022: **Our front doors are now open and The Front Door Ministry is back in place as we greet and welcome each Sunday with happy hearts.** Front Door Ministry is the first impression of Taft Avenue Church to our visitors. We want that impression to be warm and inviting. We want our guests to be put at ease as they come onto our campus and into our Worship Center

We make a special effort to welcome our guests with hospitality that will warm their hearts. We meet them, learn their names and a little about them, and we certainly invite them to come again, both before and after the service. We also make an attempt to have guests fill out a connect card (paper or online). **The Front Door Ministry wants all who come to be able to see and feel the love of Jesus in our church.**

**We are also looking for a few more committed people to be a part of The Ministry.** Please contact Gary or Cheryl Hagan ([gary@chagan.com](mailto:gary@chagan.com) and [cheryl@chagan.com](mailto:cheryl@chagan.com)) about being part of the team.

## **WORSHIP & TECH (Connor Pfaff, Worship Director)**

This past year in the worship ministry we saw a lot of awesome growth in the quality of music, sound, and worship environment we have been able to offer. Our goal as a worship ministry is to glorify God while providing meaningful space for people to encounter him. **The team has grown in musicianship while more importantly growing as worship leaders. We added Miah Diaz to our team as our Worship and Tech intern, as well as many others** on stage and behind the scenes. While we were limited to livestream only for 46 weeks of the past year, we have been excited to see the rejuvenated enthusiasm of our congregation since regathering.

For the upcoming year we plan on having Daniel Monroe as our Summer Worship Director, with Connor stepping back into his previous role in the Fall and seeing Miah continue her role into next year. ([connor.pfaff@taftavenue.org](mailto:connor.pfaff@taftavenue.org))

## **CHILDREN'S (Marcia Lichte, KidMin Director)**

**This past year in Children's ministry we were able to offer our community a successful modified Fall Festival event in October, maintain an Awana program (both in person with precautions and online), provide an Easter Children's church program, and offer preschool and elementary Sunday School classes** as restrictions allowed. Due to COVID restrictions we were not able to offer consistent weekly Sunday School for most of the year, celebrate Christmas with a family event, or offer a 2020 summer Children's program.

In the coming year 2021-2022 **we are planning to replace a traditional VBS-style summer program with a series of family events** on campus and at local parks after worship and on selected weeknights. These can be held outside and provide safe fellowship opportunities for families as we get used to regathering. **Sunday School will continue** on our normal schedule and follow the sermon series so families are able to learn together. **A Fall Festival will be held in October, and Awana will restart in September** and continue through the school year. **Occasional children's and/or family events will also be held throughout the year**, particularly to celebrate Christmas and Easter. We look forward to the new ministry year and the opportunity to build on what we learned during a difficult year and use it to change and grow and not just rush back to business as usual! ([Marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org](mailto:Marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org))

## **YOUTH (Pastor Craig)**

We see Youth as a strategic part of our church community in the year to come! Our goal last year was to hire a Youth intern, but pandemic restrictions pushed that decision into the future for various reasons. Our Goal this ministry year is to hire a Youth Intern in the fall for this ministry year (2021-22). Please be in prayer for this strategic person and this strategic ministry. ([craig@taftavenue.org](mailto:craig@taftavenue.org) )

## **COLLEGE & CAREER (Kiersten Laxamana, Connor Pfaff, Miah Diaz, leads)**

Our Young adult community is growing and thriving and actively serving our congregation in worship, and technology ministries. This upcoming year our plan is to invest in this community by offering some space to meet (the youth/YA room), and grow, as well as some budget to invest in that space and their gatherings. We see this as a strategic area of ministry for Taft Ave. in this next year. ([krlaxamana@gmail.com](mailto:krlaxamana@gmail.com) , [connor.pfaff@taftavenue.org](mailto:connor.pfaff@taftavenue.org) , [miah.diaz@taftavenue.org](mailto:miah.diaz@taftavenue.org) )

## **COMPASSION AND CARE MINISTRY (Jim Hill, volunteer lead)**

The Compassion and Care Ministry at Taft Avenue Community Church seeks to be a blessing to those in need in any number of areas of their lives. The Care Team is a group of servants who seek to share their gifts and training with others. The ministry is encouraged and overseen by the Care Team Coordinator, Jim Hill. **This past year, examples of opportunities to be a blessing to others include:**

- **hospital and home visitations,**
- **providing meals to those with little or no family support systems,**
- **providing rides to church and medical appointments,**
- **running errands for those who are house-bound,**
- **building a wheelchair ramp,**
- **providing communion to shut-in's,**
- **writing and sending notes of encouragement,**
- **sitting down and helping to sort out medical paperwork and insurance requirements, and in**
- **exploring opportunities to enter into friendships with others.**

The Team was hindered significantly by the Covid Pandemic which curtailed hospital visitations for a period of time, and even now, will only allow a single person in for visitations. Other care-giving opportunities as mentioned above were also impacted by the Covid Pandemic as protocols did not allow easy access to the person requiring care.

Opportunities to expand our work this coming year depend upon two things: 1) care givers with specific gifts and talents; and 2) our becoming aware of needs in the community in addition to those of TACC members and their families. **We hope to get the word out that the Taft Ave Compassion and Care Ministry exists and that it is able to be a blessing to those in need – no**

matter what their particular issue is. And all this is done to the Glory of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. (Jim Hill <[hillsjimnbren@gmail.com](mailto:hillsjimnbren@gmail.com)>)

### **CHILDREN'S HOUSE (Cathy Keller, Children's House Preschool Director)**

The preschool ministry has been in a holding pattern this year. **COVID restrictions kept our enrollment numbers well below our capacity. We grew slowly from reopening June 2020 through December 2020, and then were full, per current regulations.**

Our children have come through this pandemic untouched by COVID-19 and we are praising God for His protection. **As of now, we are allowed to reopen to licensing capacity. However, we need staff and children for this to happen. We are praying God brings us more of both soon!**

Our proposed budget is a **forecast of gentle growth over the next few months.** Throughout this past year we have provided loving care and sound educational programming along with the commitment to sharing the Gospel with our children and their families. We look forward to continuing this next year, according to God's blessing. His provision this past year can only be described as EPIC, for which we are profoundly grateful. ([childrenshousepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:childrenshousepreschool@gmail.com))

### **RETIREMENT HOME MINISTRY (Lee and Mary Beth Ramlo, volunteer leads)**

This past year our ministry to local retirement homes was suspended due to covid restrictions. **In the coming year we plan to resume our Sunday services at Town and Country Manor and Main Place Senior Living.** Groups of volunteers are assigned to Sundays to lead music, present a devotion, and pray for the residents in attendance. Ideally we need two teams each week. Several life groups have volunteered to serve in this ministry.

**Thank you to John and EB Adams for their decades of ministry to our local seniors and for their leadership of the Retirement Home Ministry. The leadership baton has passed to Lee and Mary Beth Ramlo.** (Lee and Mary Beth Ramlo <[mbramlo@yahoo.com](mailto:mbramlo@yahoo.com)>)

### **MISSIONS/GLOBAL PARTNERS (Doug Keller, volunteer lead)**

Because of COVID-19 this past year, Taft Ave's Missions team was not able to send teams to remote locations, global or local. However, because of God's supply and your sacrificial giving, **we were able to continue our financial support for these global partnerships:**

- **Pablo and Martha Garcia in Ensenada**
- **Team Hope in Southeast Asia**
- **Friends of Colonel (Casa de Pan) in Mexico**
- **Scholarship through Agua Viva for a church planting family who are now at work in Chiapas, Mexico.**

In the coming 2021-2022 year, **we are proposing adding financial support for Barhat Pradham as a global partner in India. We are also searching God's heart for additional global and local**

**mission opportunities.** We are updating the Mission Wall in the Worship Center lobby to include pictures of our global partners, as well as regular updates on and prayer requests for them and their missions. Please stop by and grab a sheet to stay up-to-date on what God is doing through them and how you can be praying for them. ([dougkeller@mac.com](mailto:dougkeller@mac.com) )

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES (Marcia Lichte, Women's Ministry Director)**

This past year in Women's ministry, right before COVID, **the women had a service day and filled the freezer with meals that could be delivered to those in need.** This proved to be very helpful once COVID restrictions made it more difficult to provide homemade meals. Once these meals were depleted, a couple of life groups and the Women's ministries Bible study group donated funds so that the freezer meals could be replenished as needed. **The Women's Bible Study continued to meet weekly on Google Meet** throughout most of the year. The previously scheduled **Women's Worship night in August was offered as a church wide event** with Emily Hamilton leading and offered the church a much-needed opportunity to gather safely outside. However, due to COVID restrictions we were not able to have our regular fellowship and service gatherings throughout the year, and we were unable to offer the scheduled Spring retreat.

In the coming year 2021-2022 **the Bible study will resume meeting in person, and regular fellowship and service events will be scheduled again.** We will start with summer events alternating between weeknights and Saturday mornings in order to allow as many women as possible to attend, and then continue a similar pattern into the Fall and Winter. Also, **our ladies will have a chance to go on a Spring Retreat that will be offered in 2022.**

([marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org](mailto:marcia.lichte@taftavenue.org) )

### **MENS MINISTRIES (Brian Phipps, volunteer lead)**

This past year men's ministries scaled back its efforts in line with the restrictions of in-person gatherings. As we move into the new ministry year 2021-22, Tuesday morning Men's Bible study is back to meeting in person. We are looking for a possible weekend for a men's retreat/conference as well as other possible new connections. (Brian Phipps <[bgphipps11@gmail.com](mailto:bgphipps11@gmail.com)>)

### **LIFE GROUPS (Rainier Laxamana, elder lead)**

Through 2020 some of our life groups chose not to meet while others adopted a combination of online and outdoor gatherings. Groups are in various stages of re-gathering in-person. We started a new online group led by Pastor Craig (*Taft Ave Family Room*). **In this next ministry year our goal is to launch two new in-person life groups.** If you are not yet involved and would like to be part of, or host, a new life group please contact Rainier Laxamana.

## **PREACHING AND TEACHING (Pastor Craig)**

This past year we concluded our Summer (**Trellis**) series, and also finished **Acts**. As we move into this summer we will be preaching on **Parables**. In the Fall we anticipate beginning a series in **Ezekiel**. As we look into the future I would like to begin to utilize **Wednesday nights for a midweek equipping and teaching time** in the Fall.

## **LOVE ORANGE (Pastor Craig)**

In the Fall we are planning to participate in an **all-orange Serve Day (Oct. 2)** as well as renew our practice of once-a-month **Prayer and Pick-up**. We have begun a relationship with **Mary's Kitchen** which I would like to expand. One goal is to bring on a **Pastoral Intern focusing on outreach**. I would also like to **identify someone within the congregation who could begin to coordinate volunteers** and establish and continue relationships with other area partners.