Valley Bible Church

## ANNUAL REPORT





### ANNUAL REPORT 2024 INTRO



**Bill Smith**Church Administrator

The year 2024 ushered in Valley Bible Church's 53rd Anniversary! From its humble beginnings in 1971 in downtown Pinole to its current location here in Hercules in 1989, Valley Bible Church has not changed its mission: "To know Jesus personally and to share His love passionately!" The 2024 Annual Report not only provides reviews of the various key ministry activities during this past year but will also reveal how God's

provision has been faithfully utilized to further the Gospel of Jesus, shepherd the people, serve others, reach out to our local community through our outreach efforts, and globally benefit others through our missionary organizations. The following pages include reports from the Pastoral Staff and Ministry Leaders, a review of our finances during the calendar year of 2024, and our Church Budget for 2025.

Copies of this Annual Report are made available to the congregation as required by our Church Bylaws and can be obtained by requesting one from the Church Office, downloading it from the church website (valleybible.org), or picking up a copy from the Word of Life Bookstore in the Worship Center Lobby.

I wish to thank all those who have supported the ministry here at Valley Bible Church and who continue to be faithful givers, attendees, servants, and friends of the ministry of Valley Bible Church. We give all glory and praise to God for his many blessings!!



# The Executive Pastor's Perspective on 2024

As I look back at 2024, I am reminded of God's goodness to us through the outpouring of His mercy and grace to each one of us, as well as His faithfulness to work in and through us, His chosen people. It was God who planned and planted the work here, over 53 years ago, with people full of needs from the beginning to now, and God continues to provide for and sustain Valley Bible Church today.

He has provided resources through you, His faithful children, to minister in Hercules and the surrounding communities—all under the leadership and care of the Pastors, Elders, and Deacons, partnering with the staff of Valley Bible Church. I thank God for you and your faithfulness in the giving of your time and resources during this past year, recognizing

that this Annual Report would not be possible without each and every one of you.

In the past year, the church witnessed an increase in attendance, and on average, we are seeing 100 more adults per week than the previous year—a reminder that God said He would grow His church—Praise God!

Another area of growth was seen in our Small Groups Ministry, under the direction of Susie Fernandez and Shawn Davis. Shawn joined Susie in collaboration in this valuable ministry where we enjoyed the fruit of their efforts, along with the many teachers of the small groups, as over 100 new people signed up and attended the Fall sessions and eight new groups were added. Praise the Lord!

In June, the church launched a new three-year Stewardship campaign, "Impact Tomorrow Today", and we praise God for how the people responded with their above and beyond commitments to the Lord. These commitments, as well as your regular giving, will help to sustain us in the coming years.

We also, participated in several community outreach events throughout the year in Hercules: Bayfront Run & Festival, Cultural Festival, National Night Out, and Trunk or Treat.

What might God want to do with us in the future? Without boasting about tomorrow, but instead planning with a "God willing" attitude, we seek to minister in as many ways as God makes possible. The community around us has great needs. How will God use us, as His instruments, to meet them? Pray that God will indeed challenge us to reach beyond what is humanly possible.

Remember that within a five mile area of our church, there is over 350,000 people. I would say that thousands of them have never been reached with the life-changing gospel. Most of them have probably never even heard the gospel. My heart is burdened with this knowledge and seeking ways that will make a difference in the lives of those in close proximity, as well as those on the other side of the world. I thank God for the faithfulness of

### VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH'S MISSION: Know Jesus personally and share His love passionately!



His people to pray, give, and reach out to these with the gospel.

Valley Bible's future is as bright as the promises of God. I remember what Dr. Phil Howard, our founding pastor, used to say, "Expect Great Things from God, Attempt Great Things for God", a quote from the famous missionary, Adoniram Judson.

I praise God for the wonderful pastoral and ministerial staff that He has given this church. I have had the privilege of working hand-in-hand with them and have witnessed this team of workers' love for Jesus Christ and the people of Valley Bible Church, and they are being used by Him to make a difference in the lives of the people

of Valley, as well as the community.

You will find in the pages of this booklet, reports from our staff and their ministries, along with the 2024 financial report for Valley Bible Church. It represents the financial resources that were necessary to accomplish what we believe God laid on the hearts of the leadership. It is my prayer that as you read and review this report, you will pause and take time to thank the Lord for his great blessings on this ministry, as well as joining me in praying for God's continued provision.

Compelled by His Love, Pastor Larry Howard

#### Romans 1:7b-9

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ. First,
I thank my God through
Jesus Christ for you all,
because your faith is being
proclaimed throughout the
whole world. For God, whom
I serve in my spirit in the
preaching of the gospel of
His Son, is my witness as
to how unceasingly I make
mention of you...

### ADULT EQUIPPING Pastor Todd Bolton

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness to establish and equip His people in 2024! Take a look at just some of the things God is doing:

**Testimony** by Pete Knight

For me and my wife, it was a great reset. The retreat made us take a good look at ourselves and that was both good and "bad". It was good because it put the focus on the individual. I could no longer blame my wife for "our" problems.

The culprit

### MARRIAGE RETREAT

In November, over thirty couples had the chance to get away to the Santa Cruz mountains to be refreshed and encouraged to continue pursuing an Extraordinary Marriage with Drs. Nicolas and Venessa Ellen (pictured at right).



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### MORE CLASSES!

- Growing in Christ: Over 100 people attended, expressing their desire to grow to be more like their Savior in how they love and serve those around them, even when they don't deserve it. Praise God that His people are eager to be like Him!
- Salt & Light: Hopeful Evangelism: The harvest is still plentiful so we spent several weeks encouraging one another with Christ's promises of power and fruit as we go out and tell the world the good news of the His work on the cross!
- Make Disciples: There is no greater joy than investing our lives in others and seeing them. become more like Jesus, It's one of the main reasons Jesus saved us! The mission of making disciples shapes everything we do inside and outside of the church.



### TIMOTHY FELLOWSHIP (Leadership Training)

Praise the Lord for ten men that completed our two-year Timothy Fellowship leadership training in 2024, studying topics like: Marriage & Family, Christ-Centered Teaching, Discipleship, Hospitality, Conflict Resolution, and Christian Love. As we gathered for a final celebratory dinner, it was so encouraging to hear each man's heart overflowing with greater love for Jesus and greater desire to shepherd His people!

### **Testimony**

by Jeff Faria

God used the Timothy
Fellowship to teach me how to
serve the people around me
and help them live their lives
more like Christ. This was felt the
most in my home, as I began to
see obligations as opportunities
to display the love and grace of
God. It has been invaluable for
maintaining relationships with
our two sons as they entered
the teenage and pre-teen

stages of life. At church, this increased my desire to see people's lives changed through the preaching and teaching of God's Word and challenged me to wade deeper into serving the body. I'm so grateful for what God has done through the Timothy Fellowship and look forward to what He will do as we live out what He taught us!

Rather, speaking
the truth in love, we
are to grow up in every
way into him who is the
head, into Christ, from
whom the whole body,
joined and held together
by every joint with which
it is equipped, when each
part is working properly,
makes the body grow so
that it builds itself up
in love.

**Ephesians 4:15-16** 



### BIBLICAL COUNSELING CONFERENCE

Nearly 30 VBCers attended the 2024 NorthCreek Counseling Training over three weekends to be equipped to care for God's people as they struggle with sin and suffering in this life. We hope to bring a large group again in 2025. If you are interested, please let me know. Rhonda and I have gone the last three years, and it is always a life-changing time.



We look forward to seeing what else the Lord has in store for His people as we seek first His Kingdom in 2025!



For His glory, Pastor Todd

### WORSHIP MINISTRIES Rebecca Webster

We praise the Lord for all that He has done and is continuing to do here at Valley Bible Church. Worship Ministry has had the joy and privilege of leading God's people in worship every week. Psalm 95:1 "Oh come let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." We praise the Lord for the good things he has done, and we will continue to make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation, from Hercules, CA.

Our Worship Ministry was blessed to be able to start off the year 2024 with a team conference, "Worship Together" in Nashville, TN. Our leadership team was able to go to the conference together and be encouraged as we moved through a transitional time. We had not been able to get away like this since 2017, and it was water to our souls.

In 2024, as we prepared for Good Friday and Easter, we felt led to have a large Easter Choir. This gave many people an opportunity to come and worship the Lord together in one united voice, just for this one weekend. We had an adult choir of 90+ believers worshipping together, and it was a wonderful time for

the new folks as well as for our Worship Ministry folks. Kids – 1st graders through 12th graders – participated as well and it was wonderful to hear 160 voices singing praises to our King, on one of the most special weekends of the year.

Worship Ministry began praying that God would add to our team and we began recruiting. We saw wonderful growth in 2024, with an addition of 17 new people being added to the ministry overall. This includes new additions to choir, band, and AV.

We had a great need for more help in the AV department, as it requires about 8 people every Sunday morning to carry out the functions of camera operators, Proclaim operators, live-stream board, house lights and sound, as well as a producer. The Lord added 4 new people to help serve in this ministry as well as allowing us to bring on an AV technician intern for approx 6 months. Zack Wilson was hired and has been a great help and addition to the ministry.

In October, we were able to have our Worship Retreat at Mount Hermon

Christian Conference Center in the Santa Cruz mountains. Again, we had not been able to have our annual retreat since 2018 due to Covid, so this was just an absolute blessing to us. It was a wonderful time of building relationships, team-building and a chance to get ready for Christmas In Hercules. The Lord began weaving our Christmas Program together as he wove our hearts together, and we had an extra special time we won't forget.

"Behold the King: Celebrating the Gift of Jesus" was the name of our Christmas Gospel Presentation in 2024, and it was wonderful to offer the program on both Saturday and Sunday evenings. There were more than 1000+ people in attendance over the two performances and there was a profession of faith made, which was something we had prayed for. God used each choir member, musician, actor, AV, and stage hand to accomplish His will. It was a memorable program for folks young and old, and having the Grinch make an appearance was a lot of fun!

### The Lord provided some system upgrades through his people and the leadership of VBC. Here are a few of those things:

- New choir risers that hold up to 76 people, light-weight, and easy to maneuver on a weekly basis (donated by a choir family)
- New sound system, including new speakers and bass speakers built into the stage floor
- New sound board with upgraded software to work with the new system
- Upgraded several iPads for musicians—able to replace and refurbish the old with new
- Software updates that enable us to use the Shure In-Ear Monitors that were purchased several years prior
- Three new Worship Center projectors—replacing projectors that were over 15 years old





How Worship Ministry served in 2024:

104 Sunday services

2 Sunday Worship Nights

2 Christmas Program performances

with over 1000+ in attendance

Christmas Eve Service

**Good Friday Service** 

Men's Events: Men's Breakfast, Father's Day Appreciation

Women's Events: Ladies Tea and Luncheon, Women's Prayer & Worship Night

> LEAD Meetings Funerals

### **TESTIMONIES**

I began serving in WM in Middle School. It's where I learned more about God and the freedom to respond in Spirit and truth. I learned about being a worshipper of the Most High and about leading others in worship and the Christian life. The people within are extremely dear to me over the 30+ years in the ministry.

#### - Nick Orosco

Singing to the Lord brings me so much joy. Being able to express the Lord's goodness and magnify His name through song is a small taste of what I think heaven will be like. I pray I will help stir His people to give Him the praise HE is rightfully due.

- Julie Latibeaudiere

The Worship Ministry, whether in the band, the sound team, or the choir, is made up of some of the most precious people I have ever known. It truly feels like a second home, filled with love, support, and a shared passion for worship. I am honored to be part of this ministry, lifting up the name of the Lord and experiencing the transformation that only happens in His presence.

#### - Jamelia Carson

The ministry's acts of love to me and my family are more than words can express! It has enriched our lives in countless ways, for which we are sincerely grateful.

- Deanne McDonald

Joining WM has given me something I had been searching for – fellowship, encouragement, and friendships with some of the best people I've ever known. I'm grateful to be amongst a group of caring, loving friends, always eager to serve the Lord with so much joy.

#### - Anna Olipke

I feel God has answered my prayer in blessing me with an area to serve Him in and his people through choir. This ministry has changed my life and has deepened and strengthened my relationship with God.

#### - Shannon Culpepper

I was called here because my heart loves to worship. It's been a great joy of my heart to be in this family of worshippers and to be used by God. I love to be able to express songs of God's love and the hope we have in Him.

- Louis Abrams



### YOUTH MINISTRIES Manny deSouza



2024 has been a big year for youth ministry leaders and students. Because of your faithful prayers, support, and giving, we have been able to invest in our Youth Ministries.

We have seen an even bigger increase than last year in students attending mid-week youth group and Sunday meetings.

During mid-week evenings we have a great time, but most importantly our lessons are always Christ and Gospel centered. Sunday school has more of an emphasis on theology and hermeneutics. Small groups continue to be an important part of coming alongside our youth, praying for them and doing life together.

Mark Quevedo has been continuing to lead High School midweek and Sunday school. Marquez Quevedo has come alongside me (and continues to do so) to lead middle school midweek and is doing a fantastic job.

Our student leaders have stepped up big time with leading, welcoming, being part of small groups, and helping with our youth

meetings, events, and direction.

At Summer Camps, students have placed their faith in Jesus, deepened their relationship with Christ, and have repented of sins, getting their walks back on track with Christ. This always provides an opportunity for students and leaders to get away from the busyness of life, have a great time, and focus on Christ all week long.

Summer Leagues (Volleyball Madness and Bungee Soccer) are increasing annually with the number of participating students. The Lord has maintained our attendance, and then some. We hear about Christ every week during our half-time messages. This gives us the opportunity to reach out to their families and invite them to church on Sundays as well as to students during mid-week for a small group. Great Job to Randy Osti and Mark Quevedo for heading this up.

We continue to place an emphasis on our small groups. This provides loving relationships to direct students to Christ. Small groups pray, communicate, and have fun outings together to help foster loving Christ-like relationships

The good news of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed weekly in lessons, small groups, Sunday School, and outreach events. We wouldn't be able to have the impact we have without the time and effort our youth staff volunteers.

Let's continue to pray for our leaders, volunteers, and students in pursuing Christ through the preaching and teaching of His Word.

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15



### KIDS' MINISTRES Andrea Hazel

God. Is. Awesome. Most people don't get to make it over to the Family Life Center on a Sunday or Wednesday night to hear and see the things that we do: kids asking the greatest questions, genuinely wanting to know about Jesus. laughter as they're connecting with each other, praises filling the hallways as they sing about our Savior, teachers sitting in circles on the floor with their kids, passionately sharing the Gospel in ways they can understand, heartfelt, deep, intentional prayers for the kids and fellow team members as they share their joys and concerns and boldly go to the throne and lay them at

the feet of the Almighty, new families being intentionally shown love, and kids sitting at the edge of their seats waiting to hear what will happen in the greatest story ever told. It is amazing, and God is evident in the faithfulness of His children sacrificing their time and energy to boldly and selflessly help kids know and love Jesus. I think they're amazing people, but I know it's an awesome God shining through each one of them. I hope I'm there to get to hear their, "Well done good and faithful servant." Of course we have stats to share, but no numbers fully tell the story of a child with that look in their eyes

and glow on their face when they truly understand and have decided to follow Jesus, or the thankful heart of a parent who has a child with special needs that was able to leave them in a class knowing they'd be loved there. I pray you see past the numbers to a God who is mighty and glorious and has great plans that He's carrying out right here at Valley Bible Church. I am thankful and pray we are able to continue to do what our ministry verse says, "...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done." Psalm 78:4



Sundays BABIES:

60 Babies

21 Volunteers

12 Families for Baby Celebrations



Sundays KIDS jr:

142 Kids

28 Volunteers

Sundays KIDS:

**252 Kids** 

22 Volunteers

8 Kids baptized

Candy Kingdom:

226 Volunteers

Over 2,000 people on campus

7 Trails with 80 Indoor Trick-or-Treating Stations, all pointing to Jesus

Over 100,000 pieces of candy with Bible verses went out into the community

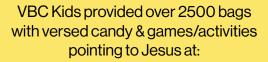
### Summer Night Camp:

221 Elementary Kids & 52 Preschoolers

**185 Volunteers** 

33 Kids prayed to receive Christ

\$5,583.14 raised for the Missions project, Awana Fiji



**City of Hercules Trunk-or-Treat** 

**National Night Out** 

**Bay Front Festival and Run** 

**Hercules Tree Lighting** 

**Hercules Cultural Festival** 

Awana: 139 Kids 31 Volunteers





Childcare:

70 Kids

9 Staff

19 New Doors provided better safety and security for teachers and kids, while easing ministry since teachers can now close doors during services, making it easier to hear their classes and minimize distractions from the hallways and other classrooms.

**Eat This Book Challenge** encouraged kids to be in the Bible regularly for 21 weeks

**12 Months** of Daily Prayer Prompt Calendars helped kids connect with God daily in ways that were easy for them

**12 Sunday Giveaways** pointed kids to Jesus during holidays and helped families connect with each other and God in unexpected ways outside of church



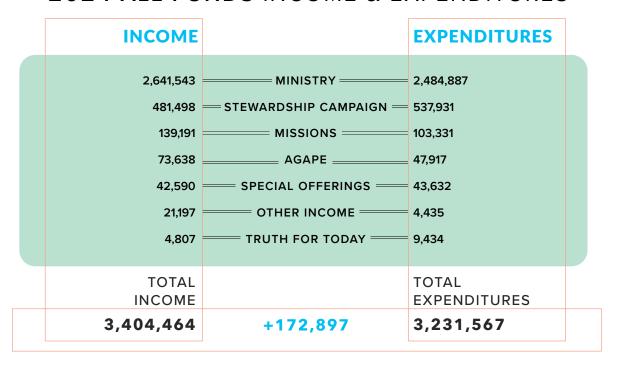
### **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

The year 2024 saw a decrease in offerings compared to 2023 by \$105,152. However, I am happy to report that God blessed Valley Bible in 2024 with unexpected income from our Verizon lease. As a result, the total income received in 2024 was \$3,404,464, which was 13.1% or \$392,442 above the amount received in the prior calendar year.

Tithes/offerings accounted for 60% of the total income received in 2024. The total annual income comes from other sources including ministry operations such as youth events, children's ministry events, campus use fees, lease agreement fees, and other operational event transactions. The total expenses incurred during 2024

were \$3,231,567, which was 17.4% or \$477,832 above the amount spent in the prior calendar year. All individual ministry expenses are monitored to accurately record them within the total church budget accounting. The result in 2024 was a surplus of income exceeding expenses by \$172,897. Praise God!

### **2024 ALL FUNDS INCOME & EXPENDITURES**



### BALANCE SHEET 2024

PAYROLL TAXES (3,994.67)
MORTGAGE ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE 2,913,300.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES

2,909,306.18

OPERATING FUNDS (539,609.30)
DESIGNATED FUNDS 1,187,687.02
EQUITY 20,989,757.71

TOTAL FUNDS **21,637,835.43** 

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS

24,547,141.61

MINISTRY FUND CHECKING ACCT 154,317.76

MINISTRY FUND CONTINGENCY ACCT 28,228.75

MINISTRY FUND PETTY CASH 300.00

MINISTRY FUND SWEEP ACCT 549,328.09

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN ACCT 244,828.56

OUTREACH/MISSIONS FUND ACCT 67,399.99

MINISTRY FUND CAPITAL RESERVE ACCT 29,820.45

AGAPE FUND ACCT 40,999.39

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

1,115,222.99

OTHER ASSETS LAND/BUILDING/EQUIPMENT

23,431,918.62

TOTAL ASSETS

24,547,141.61

DIFFERENCE = 0

### **2024** MINISTRY FUND INCOME & EXPENDITURES

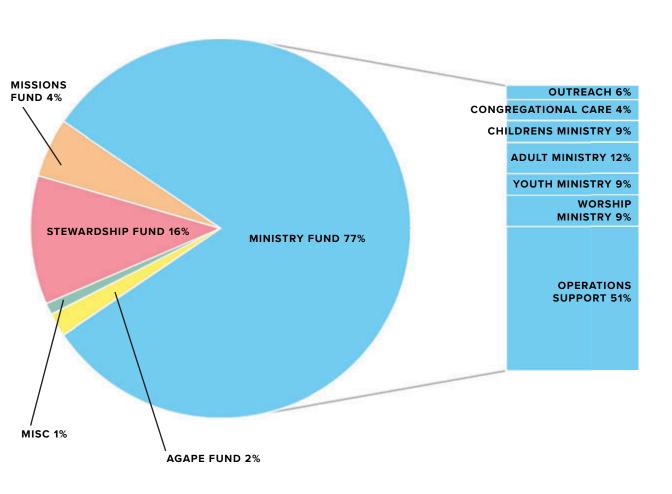
TOTAL INCOME		TOTAL EXPENDITURES	
2,641,543	+156,656	2,484,887	

### 2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Valley Bible Church's 2025 Budget was approved by the Elder Council after careful review. Each leader of a church ministry area met with the Executive Pastor to prayerfully review the proposed budget for their area of responsibility. Once all questions or concerns were addressed, discussed, and/or edited, the proposed budget for that ministry was passed onto the Church Administrator. Once all ministry leaders have gone through this process with the Executive Pastor, the total church budget is put together by the Church Administrator and turned over to the Chairman of Elders. Once the Chairman of the Elders familiarizes himself with and fully understands the proposed budget, he is ready to present it to the Elder Council. The Elder Council is given the total proposed budget for their collective review, and once all questions & concerns have been discussed and fully addressed, the budget is put to a vote and approved.

The approved church budget reflects the targets of each ministry in all areas of the church operation. The 2025 Church Budget reflects both the total income and total expense of all church fund accounts expected to occur to accomplish the goals for this current year. The 2025 Church Budget represents the most accurate estimation of potential income and anticipated expenses to occur during the calendar year. Valley Bible Church's traditional operation motto has been, "if the funds are not available, the expenditure will not occur". As a congregation, please join in praying for God's provision to His ministry of Valley Bible Church and for wisdom to be good stewards of what He has already provided and will provide in future obligations and in financial aid to those in need.

### **ANNUAL BUDGET 2025**



### TOTAL 2025 BUDGET: \$3,096,158

77% Ministry Fund \$2,389,900

16% Stewardship Fund \$487,055

4% Missions Fund \$131,103

2% Agape Fund \$70,500

1% Miscellaneous \$17,600

### **ELDERS**

TIM VAHLSTROM, Chairman

TODD BOLTON

**EDWIN CHANDRA** 

LARRY HOWARD

JEFF JOYA

**CHUCK LATIBEAUDIERE** 

RANDY OSTI

### **DEACONS**

TIM MCNEIL, Chairman

RICHARD ARMSTRONG

JOEL ENRIQUEZ
ADAM HOWARD

PETE KNIGHT

TIM LATIBEAUDIERE

ROBERT LENDWAY

JULIO LETO

RAY MOLINAR

WAYNE MOORE

NICK OROSCO JORGE PEREZ

GRANT PINKSTON

MARK QUEVEDO

ERNIE SANCHEZ

JOHN SMITH

RANDY WATSON

JASON WEBSTER
TOM WHITE

OTIS WILEY

STEVE ZIEM

### **VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH PASTORS & STAFF**

#### **Pastors**

LARRY HOWARD

Executive Pastor

TODD BOLTON

Associate Pastor

TIMOTHY VAHLSTROM

Lay Pastor/Chairman of Elders

DR. PHILLIP A. HOWARD

Founder/Pastor Emeritus

#### Youth Ministries

MANNY DESOUZA

VBC Youth Director

ANGELICA CAMACHO

Administrative Assistant for VBC Youth Middle School

**OLIVIA CORTESE** 

Administrative Assistant for VBC Youth High School

Kids' Ministries

ANDREA HAZEL

VBC Kids Director

SANDY ORMEO

Administrative Assistant for VBC Kids

MICHELLE GIBSON

VBC Kids Elementary Team Leader

**MELISSA VINES** 

VBC Kids Jr. Team Leader

LAURA MITTELBUSHER

VBC Babies Team Leader

**TEIA JURINOVIC** 

Childcare Team Leader

### Worship Ministries

REBECCA WEBSTER

Director of Worship Ministries

CHERYL MILLER

Associate Director of Worship Ministries

#### Creative Communications

LISA FARIA

Director of Creative Communications

ANNA NASON

Assistant to Creative Communications

### Administrative and Support Staff

**BILL SMITH** 

Church Administrator/Audio-Visual Director

SHANNON GROSENHEIDER

Administrative Assistant

LACY DESOUZA

Administrative Assistant

RAELENE LANE

Financial Assistant & FellowshipOne Support

ZACK WILSON

AV & IT Support

SCOTT KALLANDER

Facilities Maintenance

DINO LEDESMA

Facilities Custodian

MICHAEL GROSENHEIDER

Bookstore Manager





