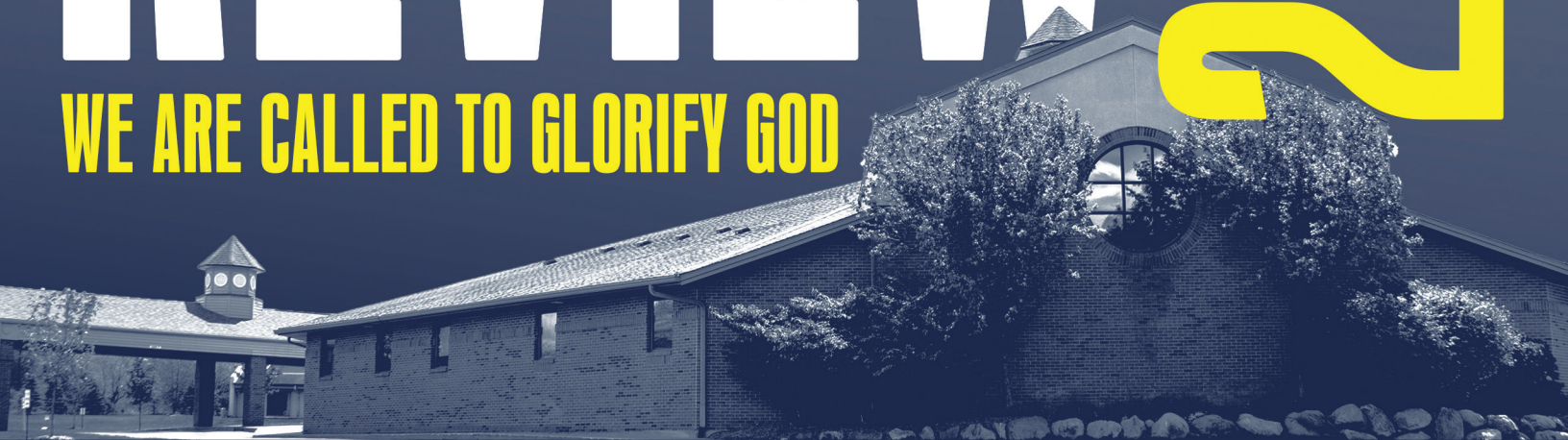


REVIEW 2023

WE ARE CALLED TO GLORIFY GOD





WE ARE CALLED TO **GLORIFY GOD**

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A NOTE FROM PASTOR ZACH

As I reflect on this past year in the life of our church, I am reminded of the words of that beloved hymn “Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed your hand has provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.” Together this last year we have rejoiced with weddings, births, baptisms, and new members. Together this last year we have grieved with funerals, diagnoses, and sufferings. For some this was a year of great spiritual fruitfulness and growth, while for others it was a year of spiritual dryness and trial. Yet in the midst of both joy and hardship in the life of our church family, what is evident again and again is the goodness and faithfulness of God to our church.

Sadly, in evangelical culture today, the marks of a healthy church are frequently reduced to a set of metrics (church attendance, finances, etc.). Those things are important, and we should be thankful that God continues to bless West Cannon with a growing number of people and financial gifts. But I want to briefly draw your attention to a few less celebrated areas that encourage me as signs of what the Lord is doing in our church:

- I am rejoicing over men and women, of all ages, who are coming to know Christ through our members and ministries. For some of these new brothers and sisters in Christ, their first exposure to the Gospel came through a connection made in one of our ministries.
- I am encouraged by the number of men who have approached me over the last few months who are convicted to grow in spiritually leading family worship. One of my focuses this coming year will be to equip the men of our church to spiritually lead their families for the glory of God.
- I have delighted in meeting many new young families, singles, middle-aged, and senior saints who have begun regularly attending West Cannon in recent months. What a blessing to enjoy rich and growing inter-generational fellowship!

- I am amazed that God has blessed us with over 200 children that regularly attend on Sunday mornings. What a Gospel opportunity, and gift for the future of our church!
- I am thankful for baptisms, an expanding counseling ministry, mission reports, and the many calls and letters I receive about how God is growing your love for His Word and our King Jesus through the various teaching ministries of our church.
- I am humbled that in a day and age that is increasingly consumerist and individualistic, we now have over 470 members (in addition to regular attenders) who have covenanted together to love and serve our Lord, and who are now serving in so many ways!

Beloved, we still have much to do—the fields are white with harvest! But praise the Lord for His goodness and grace for what He is doing in and through the lives of His saints here at West Cannon. I hope that these ministry reports will encourage and challenge you as together we continue to pursue our mission—**“We are called to glorify God.”** I hope that in numerous ways the depth of my love for you is evident, and my earnest and frequent prayer on your behalf is that God would continue to grow each one of us up in the knowledge and likeness of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Zach



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Last year, Children's Ministries experienced joyful growth as more families and children became part of the West Cannon community. Through Sunday and midweek programs, special events, and outreach opportunities, children were taught God's Word in safe, engaging environments by a growing team of dedicated volunteers. We are grateful for parents who partner with us and for volunteers who invest faithfully in young lives, helping children know Christ and grow in their love for Him.

SAFETY

Children's Ministries continued to prioritize safety through team training, improved security measures, and clear communication. Volunteers participated in emergency response training, new door locks were installed on all classrooms, and annual fire drills were conducted to strengthen coordination with our Security Team.

GENERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT

Beyond weekly programming, Children's Ministries supported MotherWell, Grace at the Well, and Cannonsburg's Bible Club by providing curriculum, policy oversight, and administrative support.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

In 2025, Children's Ministries partnered with parents to teach God's Word and point children to Christ. Through Children's Church, and Sunday School, our teachers shared biblical truth in engaging ways. Also, 14 parents publicly committed to raising their children in the Lord at our two Parent Dedications.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS

More than 250 children participated in our AWANA, and Detour programs this year, engaging in intentional discipleship that helps them know, love, and live God's Word. Through Scripture memorization, biblical teaching, and small-group relationships, kids are building a strong foundation in God's truth and learning how to follow Christ in everyday life.

JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

Providing a meaningful and joy-filled opportunity for families and guests to celebrate the birth of Christ together, *Journey to Christmas* offered a live nativity, crafts, dinner, and a short program pointing to the true meaning of Christmas.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

VBS welcomed over 270 children for four days of Gospel-centered fun, led by a large and dedicated volunteer team. Kids invited friends, earned prizes, and raised funds to support a soccer facility project in Zambia, extending their impact beyond our church.

FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

The Fall Family Festival brought families together for a fun, welcoming evening featuring games, treats, and a free dinner. Thanks to many volunteers, the event created a warm space for connection, hospitality, and outreach within our community.



STUDENT MINISTRIES



Last year, Student Ministries was marked by steady growth, deepening discipleship, and meaningful community—fueled in part by more Mountain Dew and Dr. Pepper than we can count. Through weekly small groups, worship, retreats, service projects, and shared experiences, students were challenged to know God's Word, build strong relationships, and follow Christ with growing faith, joy, and energy.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Wednesday night small groups anchored Student Ministries with 75 students and 16 leaders gathering weekly. Both Jr. and Sr. High students worked steadily through Scripture, while 27 students served faithfully in the Praise Band, helping lead Big Group worship on Sunday mornings.

RETREATS & SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

Students stepped away from daily routines through retreats at Lake Ann and Cranhill Ranch. These weekends created space for teaching, worship, and connection, strengthening faith and friendships centered on God's Word.

SERVICE & MISSION EXPERIENCES

Students lived out their faith through hands-on service, from yard work for local families to a Sr. High STAY trip serving at ten community ministries. These experiences challenged students to love others through action.

TRIPS & ADVENTURES

Jr. High students braved summer heat while camping in Kentucky and visiting the Ark and Creation Museum, while graduating seniors celebrated their milestone with a memorable trip to Hocking Hills, marking the close of one chapter and the start of another.

SUMMER CONNECTIONS

Four Summer Connection gatherings hosted in homes provided relaxed spaces for students to stay connected, deepen relationships, and continue growing together during the summer months.

CELEBRATIONS & YEAR-END TRADITIONS

The year wrapped up with fun and fellowship through the Amazing Race end-of-year party, downtown challenges in Rockford, and a festive Christmas Afterhours—celebrating another year of growth, friendships, and God's faithfulness.



ADULT MINISTRIES



Last year, Adult Ministries continued to focus on deepening discipleship, fostering meaningful community, and equipping adults to live out their faith. Through strong participation in Adult Sunday School, men's discipleship, service opportunities, and intentional ministry to single and young adults, we saw steady growth in biblical understanding, relational connection, and practical service. God has used these ministries to strengthen our church family and encourage faithful, Gospel-centered living in every season of adult life.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Adult Sunday School remains a cornerstone of discipleship at West Cannon, serving as our primary outlet for community, care, applied theology, and welcoming new attendees. With the launch of the Steadfast class in Fall 2024, we now offer 11 adult classes meeting weekly. In 2025, average attendance reached 318, reflecting strong engagement and nearly 70% retention from our morning worship service.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Men's Ministries focused on connecting men in meaningful relationships that foster godly growth in every area of life. Through Forge groups, one-on-one discipleship, and shared gatherings, men were encouraged toward accountability, spiritual maturity, and faithful service. More than 70 men participated in small groups meeting regularly throughout the year, supported by a dedicated leadership team.

Quarterly breakfasts, fellowship events, and service projects created on-ramps for connection and outreach, while hands-on work days and seasonal service met practical needs within the church and community. A new Handyman Ministry (in conjugation with the CARE Ministry) launched in April and quickly became a tangible expression of care, completing multiple projects to serve and encourage church families.



SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY

Our Single Adult Ministry continued to provide intentional discipleship and meaningful community for post-high school young adults. The Therefore Sunday School class equipped participants to think biblically, grow in Christ-centered relationships, and serve faithfully within the church and community, supported by a committed team of leaders and trained servant-leaders.

Throughout the year, regular Sunday classes, Monday evening gatherings, retreats, shared meals, social events, and service opportunities fostered spiritual growth and deepened community. Participation in local and regional service projects, along with collaboration with other Bridge Fellowship churches, helped young adults live out their faith together while strengthening their connection to the broader body of Christ.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



In 2025, Women's Ministries focused on helping women grow deeply in God's Word, build meaningful relationships, and live out their faith through service. Through Bible Studies, MotherWell, and apologetics training, women were equipped to pursue spiritual maturity and engage their faith with confidence and grace. Connection Groups continued to foster mentoring relationships, while service projects provided tangible ways to love and serve others, strengthening both our church family and our broader community.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Studies remained a strong foundation of spiritual growth, with more than 90 women participating in organized study groups this fall. An additional group of women engaged independently through audio teaching, allowing for flexible participation. Together, these studies encouraged consistent time in God's Word, thoughtful discussion, and practical application in everyday life.

APOLOGETICS

Apologetics courses equipped women to thoughtfully and graciously defend their faith, emphasizing truth spoken with love, mercy, and humility. Using *Streets Smarts* by Greg Koukl, participants learned practical tools for engaging in

gentle, respectful conversations about the Gospel. Twelve women took part in the most recent class, growing in both confidence and compassion as ambassadors for Christ.

SERVICE PROJECTS

The women of our church also expressed Christ's love through hands-on service by partnering with local organizations to meet practical needs. Volunteers packed food bags for Hand2Hand at Bella Vista Church, assembled care bags with Mended Quiver for Samaritas social workers, and helped provide and serve a Thanksgiving meal for Homes Giving Hope—offering encouragement, and tangible care to families in need.

CONNECTION GROUPS

Connection Groups continued to grow as a meaningful space for mentorship, encouragement, and spiritual formation. Last year, four new groups were added, with eight leaders investing intentionally in the lives of 30 women. In total, 16 mentors walked alongside 67 women, fostering deeper relationships, accountability, and growth in Christ-centered community.

MOTHERWELL

MotherWell entered its fifth year last fall with 46 moms and a dedicated leadership team drawn from the West Cannon family. The ministry continues to reach both church and community moms, many of whom are not otherwise connected to West Cannon. Alongside ministry to mothers, care was provided for dozens of children through a faithful team of volunteers. Through regular gatherings, shared meals, meaningful teaching on the theme, *Fruit of the Spirit*, and intentional relationship-building, the Gospel was clearly and compassionately proclaimed, meeting women in every stage of faith and life.



CARE MINISTRIES



What a blessing it is to be part of a loving and caring church family. In Hebrews 6:10 we read, **“God will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.”** In many respects this verse personifies the Care Ministry that we enjoy one to another.

CARE DEACONS

While our current 27 Care Deacons primary responsibility is to care for the needs of those in their respective Sunday school classes, they serve the greater church family as well. Aspects of care deacon ministry include: being a servant-leader who serves with the class elder to ensure care for class members; supporting those who are sick or have other physical or spiritual needs; and providing practical support by coordinating help for families in need.

A subset of the Care Deacons also steward the Care Fund of our church by considering requests for financial assistance from those in our congregation as well as those from the greater community. Because of the generous giving of our church family, the deacons have distributed over \$6,500 to support mortgage/rent payments, utilities, car repairs, home repairs, and daily need expenses. General oversight of the food pantry and gift card distribution are also duties of our care deacon team.

1215 MINISTRY

This ministry is guided by the words of Romans 12:15 which says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” This Care Ministry provides support for those who have reason for joy—and for those who are hurting and in need of encouragement. In 2025, we helped with 11 funerals, offered several bridal and baby showers, provided countless meals, and maintained our church kitchen.

OTHER MINISTRIES

There are many other aspects of our Care Ministry within our church including; prayer for one another, hospital visits, visits to those homebound, provision of meals, transportation to doctor appointments, home improvement ministry, vehicle repair team, and many others. We are grateful for our caring congregation!



NEVER ALONE MINISTRY

This ministry provides support and encouragement to the widows of our church, and to those in our community. The ministry is very active, offering at least one activity or event most months of the year. 2025 activities included a trip to a local musical, a luncheon to remember and share memories of spouses, a visit to a local nursery, breakfast and bunco with the junior high girls, a jewelry making event, and many other fun and encouraging happenings.

NEVER ALONE MINISTRY TEAM (2025)

Carolyn Balko, Pam Beimers,
Donna Brunsink, Virginia Eubank,
Marge Farmer, Vicki Pratt, Jan Schneider

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



Throughout the year, God allowed us to steward meaningful opportunities in missions and outreach at every level—global, regional, and local. We continued supporting and encouraging missionaries worldwide, engaged in hands-on service through a cross-cultural missions trip, invested in ministry leaders and church partners regionally, and strengthened local outreach through faithful partnerships and volunteers. Through prayer, generosity, and presence, we saw God advancing His work and calling us to continued faithfulness in His mission.

GLOBAL IMPACT

We continued supporting 17 individuals, couples, and families serving in cross-cultural ministry around the world. We were encouraged through in-person ministry reports from John & Jacky Taylor, Waad H., and Harrison & Michelle Banda, and we look forward to reconnecting with George & Debbie Collins at a future date. Our Global Impact Team faithfully served through prayer, care, and coordination throughout the year.

GLOBAL IMPACT TEAM (2025)

Bill & Deborah Shrontz, Bruce Bonnell, Carissa Highman,
Sam Huckaby, Steve & Missy Kent, and Bill Mosher

A highlight of the year was our **Yucatán missions trip**, where a team of 24 served alongside Jesus of Nazareth Baptist Church in Valladolid, Mexico. The team partnered in construction, ESL outreach, a medical clinic, and a Moms-in-Prayer ministry—creating space for both practical help and meaningful spiritual conversations.

Beyond regular support, project funds were used to meet specific missionary needs, assist with translation work, help open new ministry fields, support ongoing ministry projects, and contribute to the Sara Kaba Naa Bible translation through Bibles International. We also continued our weekly missionary prayer gathering on Wednesday evenings at church, and invite others to join us in praying that God would raise up more laborers from our church family for His harvest.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

REGIONAL INVESTMENT

At the regional level, we continued investing in Gospel-centered partnerships and leadership development. We supported Bridge Fellowship and Executive Director Doug Crawford, Lincoln Lake Baptist Camp, and Bill & Natalie Taylor at CityView Baptist Church in inner-city Cleveland, OH. Our support for Ken & Renee Dockery concluded midyear as Ken accepted a full-time pastorate in the Cleveland area.

We celebrated the completion of our first pastoral residency, as Joel Opificius finished his M.Div. at Faith Bible Seminary, concluded three years of learning and service at West Cannon, and is pursuing his first full-time pastoral role. We also welcomed James Golden as a pastoral intern, serving over the next year while continuing full-time work and theological training in preparation for bi-vocational ministry.

In addition to ongoing support, we were able to assist with rent for CityView Baptist Church, provide church and pastoral support to Berean Bible Baptist Church in Jackson, Michigan, and contribute to the STEPS Initiative at Lincoln Lake Baptist Camp toward the construction of a new retreat center.

LOCAL OUTREACH

Locally, we continued partnering with ministries through financial support and hands-on service, caring for families, students, and vulnerable neighbors with practical help and gospel-centered outreach. Our Local Outreach Team faithfully guided these efforts. We also celebrated the conclusion of three impactful years of Grace at the Well, which served 16 moms and saw lives changed through salvations, baptisms, church membership, and lasting community.

We also hosted our second Local Ministries Fair, welcoming 15 ministries and agencies who shared their work with our church family, along with featured presentations from North Kent Connect and the West Michigan Friendship Center. In addition to regular support, project funds were directed toward Assure Women's Center's capital campaign and Mel Trotter Ministries to help provide holiday meals—extending Christ's care in tangible ways close to home.

LOCAL OUTREACH TEAM (2025)

Ruth Bos, Kristen Crawford, Amber Lawrence
Ardie & Kathee Lundin, Richard Schubert, Diana Simpson

MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORTED AROUND THE WORLD – 2025

This map highlights the locations of the missionaries and ministry partners we supported in 2025. Through prayer, giving, and partnership, our church family had the privilege of participating in God's work across the globe as the Gospel continues to advance among the nations.



COUNSELING MINISTRY



In 2025, our Counseling Ministry continued to walk alongside individuals and families with the hope of Christ and the truth of Scripture. Through compassionate, biblically grounded care, we sought to help people find real change, and renewed hope in the sufficiency of Christ.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Our counseling ministry remains firmly rooted in God's Word, teaching the sufficiency of Scripture and pointing people to Christ. We seek to address both heart and life issues with truth, grace, and love.

GROWING MINISTRY IMPACT

Our counselors averaged approximately 10-hours each week, totaling more than 520 hours in 2025, serving individuals, couples, and families seeking help and encouragement.

EQUIPPED & EXPANDING TEAM

This ministry is supported by two certified counselors, three nearing certification, and four in training, along with married couples who continue to mentor others following counseling—extending care and discipleship within our church family.

ACBC CONFERENCE

This fall, the West Cannon Counseling Ministry hosted the ACBC Basic Training conference, along with 10 other local churches. The three training weekends were September 19-20, October 17-18, and November 14-15. These conferences covered topics such as Marriage and Family, What Makes Biblical Counseling Biblical, A Comparison of Counseling Philosophies, Counseling Those with a Medical Diagnosis, Fear, Worry, and Anxiety, and more. These weekends were highly beneficial for the more than 140 people who attended, including 10+ members of West Cannon who attended to deepen their counseling knowledge! This conference is the first step in a behind-the-scenes effort by a group of churches seeking to establish a counseling training center in Southwest Michigan. Our goal is for this group of churches to deliver this training in the spring of 2027 independently for the body of Christ in our area!

Building Involvement

Dr. Andrew D. Rogers



MUSIC MINISTRIES



Last year, Music Ministries joyfully served through a vibrant, multi-generational team of volunteers using their gifts to lead God's people in praise. From weekly services to special gatherings, music and worship helped us reflect on Christ's sacrifice, celebrate His resurrection, and rejoice in the hope of the Gospel. Through students, adults, choirs, bands, and production teams, God's truth was proclaimed through song.

STUDENT WORSHIP WORKSHOP

Student Worship Workshop equipped 35 middle and high school students through hands-on training in instruments, vocals, and production, led by Adult Praise Team members investing in the next generation of worship leaders.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

In March, our choir led a meaningful Night of Worship filled with praise and reflection, ending early due to a tornado warning but marked by God's presence and protection.

STUDENT & KIDS CHOIRS

Student and Kids Choirs led worship during Christmas, Easter, and Graduate Dedication services, highlighting our commitment to cultivating worship in the next generation.

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER

Good Friday and Easter services were enriched by the Worship Choir, Praise Team, and special music as we remembered Christ's sacrifice and celebrated His resurrection.

VBS WORSHIP

A dedicated VBS worship band led children in joyful praise, using music to teach biblical truth and encourage growing faith.

PRAISE IN THE PARK

Praise in the Park returned for its second year along the Rockford riverfront, with student and adult teams leading worship together in a joyful, family-friendly setting.

BRIDGE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE

In October, our Worship Choir and Praise Team led worship at the Bridge Fellowship Conference at Maranatha Conference grounds.

CHRISTMAS AT WEST CANNON

Throughout the Christmas season, worship filled West Cannon through choirs of all ages, special events, and a Christmas Eve service celebrating the hope found in Christ.



RIVERFRONT STAGE

WEST CANNON BAPTIST CHURCH
BELMONT, MICHIGAN // WESTCANNON.ORG

WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM
THURSDAY 8:00 PM
FRIDAY 11:00 AM
SATURDAY 9:00 PM

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Bruce Bonnell

Elder



Tom Cizauskas

Elder



Dave Dykema

Elder



Larry Harreld

Elder



Greg Larson

Elder



Dave Parmerlee

Elder



Rob Wynalda

Elder/Chairman

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