

# CAMBRIDGEPORT

## BAPTIST CHURCH

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Annual meeting ministry reports  
April 2022  
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# Senior Pastor's Report

Submitted by Dan Szatkowski

April 30, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This has been our second full year impacted by Covid19 but thankfully in July we were able to resume meeting in person! At first it was strange to be back in the building but now, nine months later, it feels normal once again! Our Sunday morning service is both in-person and online and I want to especially thank the media, sound, and worship teams for enabling this hybrid reality.

Our return as an in-person community has included pizza in the park after our Sunday services in the fall, a welcome dinner for new attendees (13) in October, and a fun and engaging Christmas Eve service. Omicron took some of the wind out of our sails in January but we managed to keep going and the children and families returned in February and March. April featured a return to pizza in the park, a special child dedication service on Palm Sunday (Ada and Ezra Gutwin, Celestine and Benny Lecarme, and Kewli Shitemi), a thoughtful Good Friday service, a beautiful celebration of the life of Donna Richardson on Holy Saturday, and an amazing baptism service (Anna Bailey, Brian Thurm, and Scott Thurm) on Easter Sunday with 118 in attendance! God has been good to us in this year of return from what has felt like an exile.

I am so thankful for the church staff. Anna Bailey came on as a part time administrator in July following Karen's move to Rochester, NY. Karen has remained on staff, helping with administration remotely to supplement Anna's in person work. Rahel, Pastor Shtem, and I have been working more closely together as we seek to deepen the discipleship of our entire community. I thank God for such collaborative and gifted co-laborers in the gospel. We continue to integrate the sermon with the discipleship groups and are also being helped to broaden our discipleship by coaching from Joe Reed of the Exponent Group. Our biggest challenge is not a new one - the harvest remains plentiful but the workers are few and even more so due to Covid...

This year I have also been very involved in both the renting and renovating of our building. We continue to rent to the Justice House of Prayer/Hilltop Church (JHOP/HC), Mahanaim Church, and The Resting Place Church. There have also been a few special events such as funerals, weddings, and hosting mission teams. The rental activity is considerable and Karen partners with me in managing it. The renovation side has included additional wiring in the fellowship hall and the JHOP office downstairs (\$6,000), fiberglass restoration of the baptistry (\$6,000), and major roof work which is scheduled to start in May (\$100,000; we secured a \$50,000 grant from the Cambridge Historical Commission).

The elders have a separate report but I am thankful for the leadership and oversight they provide in addition to our staff. This year it was a privilege to serve with Lisa Carr, Paul Carter, Rebecca Gutwin, Bill McLaurin, and Melaku Zewde.

The online prayer ministry continued throughout the year and I am thankful for the committed core of intercessors who log on daily to pray. Please join us whenever you can and I especially invite you to either our Monday evening

prayer for our local partners, or our Wednesday evening prayer for the nations, or our Friday evening prayer for healing.

Finally, there were two items that were discussed at length at our semi-annual meeting last November that I want to follow up on. The first was a proposed sabbatical for me this spring which was approved with some conditions. I have decided to forgo the sabbatical at this time due to both church and family considerations but may ask again at a more opportune moment. The second item was Rahel's ordination which was also approved. I had hoped to complete this process by spring but am now aiming for the fall. Stay tuned.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dan

# Associate Pastor's Report

Submitted by Steven Shitemi

It was still a challenging year of trying to get to some form of new normal of ministry but we have seen some gains.

## **Youth**

We have had a year of growth as the youth ministry in terms of figuring out our relationship with God. I have enjoyed spending time with the youth and continue to learn their passions and perspectives.

We have not been able to meet all the youth in a big group setting since covid and all the emotional and mental fatigue it brought about. I have continued to have one on one lunches with the youth and it has been life giving to not only them, but also to me.

## **Community Life**

Two main ways of getting integrated with the community at CBC are through being part of a service ministry and joining a small group. It is a small percentage of those who attend that are involved in both areas. We have not reached the level of involvement from before covid but there has been some growth.

Being part of a service ministry allows you to use the gifts God has endowed you with to better edify the body at CBC. We all have different gifts and this diversity allows opportunity for each to serve in some capacity. This also affords us the opportunity to get to know you and a camaraderie is formed as we roll up our sleeves and serve together, whether in the music ministry, media team, children's ministry or youth.

As being part of a service ministry allows you to use your gifting, being part of small groups allows you to care for others in the small group, to celebrate them in their high moments and pray with them in their low moments. We currently have five groups that meet weekly and are a good way of finding connection and community.

Being part of the body of Christ means being involved in a community of believers. When you look at your gifting, season of life, hopes and desires, how can you serve the body of Christ at CBC for the next year? Which ministry could you serve in or start? Would you be up to starting a group or joining one?

I pray you have a blessed year ahead led by faith and not fear.

Steven Shitemi (Shtem)

# Children and Family Ministry Report

Submitted by Rahel Zewde

April 30th 2022

Dear church family,

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentation 3:22-23.*

As I reflect on this past year, first, I am grateful for God’s love, mercy and faithfulness that we see everyday. It is through his mercy and grace that we were able to wrap up 2021 zoom classes and move to an in person meeting in July. I am grateful for all the volunteers (parents, young adults and youth) who give so much to the children and family ministry.

## **Discipleship:**

Last year in June we wrapped up our zoom children’s program with a picnic in the park. It was our first gathering since Covid hit. We were excited to meet in person to fellowship and have time together. Since July we have had our children’s program in person. As for now the children's discipleship is between home-based discipleship (led by parents) and church-based discipleship (led by children ministry volunteers).

**Little Kids Club (LKC) and Kids Club (LKC):** We have been using the curriculum, “Bible in One year,” which takes us through the whole Bible in one year. However, we have broken it up into two years. We are going through the Old Testament this year and plan to go through the New Testament next year. In addition, this curriculum gives us flexibility for parent’s online access and modifies the lessons for home discipleship.

**Growing in God (GIG):** We have been meeting on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, as a sermon alternative parallel to what the congregation are studying. Recently it has been the gospel of Luke. In the month of November, we had a guest speaker who spoke to the congregation about Afghan refugees who settled in the US. The GIG students reviewed the presentation about Afghan refugees and discussed why refugees leave their country. In addition, they explored biblical refugee characters and what the word of God said about refugees and strangers (Leviticus 19:33- 34 and Hebrew 13:1-2). On October 17<sup>th</sup>, they hosted a bake sale and raised \$307. With the money they had earned, they bought school supplies and prepared and delivered two baskets of gifts for Afghan refugees’ families who settled in Massachusetts.

**Children’s Sermon:** Our children experience community worship and have special children's songs every Sunday. In addition, on the first Sunday of the month, they stay in the service to listen to a children’s sermon and participate in communion. We are thankful for Pastor Dan’s leadership.

**Children's choir:** "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise" Psalm 8:2. With the Leadership of Sarita Kwok and Anna Bailey, on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve service and Easter Sunday, our children's choir presented songs for the congregation. It was a joy and blessings to hear our children singing. I am grateful for the leadership of Sarita and Anna.

**Children dedications:** A few weeks ago, on Palm Sunday, we had the joy of witnessing parents dedicate children. In Luke 18:15-17 it says, when parents brought their children to Jesus, Jesus blessed them." In the same way, as we anointed families with oil and prayed over the scriptures, we proclaimed Jesus' blessing over the children.

**Prayer-** Every Thursday, during our online noonday prayer time, we pray for our children and youth regularly. I am encouraged and blessed to pray with the faithful prayer warriors who intercede for the next generation.

This last week's children's Bible lesson was about the very famous Bible story of David and Goliath. The main point was **God is on our side.** As I look back on this past year, in this uncertain time **God has been on our side.** We just need to remind ourselves **God is on our side** no matter how big a giant we face. He who began the good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).

In Christ's love,

Rahel

# Worship Team Report

Submitted by Nathan Abrhamson

This year the CBC worship team celebrated with all of you the Lord's goodness in returning us to in-person meetings. Starting at the beginning of the summer, a team led by Paul Carter worked to upgrade the sanctuary's sound and media technology, preparing for the challenge of running a zoom broadcast in conjunction with an in-person meeting. During that time, Karl and Nathan took a break from leading worship online to help with that effort, and other members of the team stepped in to lead using songs recorded over the past year.

Then on July 11th, we led worship at our first in-person service since March of 2020! Since then we have been learning and adjusting. For example, we no longer use speakers pointed back toward us on stage ("stage monitors"), since our system now allows us each to use earphones to hear ourselves more clearly. This has been an overall plus for the team members, and has hopefully improved the overall sound in the sanctuary.

We also experimented with some of the 60-odd recordings we made last year, seeing if we could use them as audio accompaniment tracks to fill out our live sound on stage. We retained the capability of leading worship remotely for online services for the few weeks when we had to refrain from meeting in person. We also continued to include a "children's song" as part of the in-person service.

In November, we replaced the old drum set with a new electronic version. This was originally inspired by Mahanaiam's need for a drum set, and we together decided that investing in a new set would be beneficial to all users of the church building.

Our team this year was Bill, Karl, Chuck, Abigail, Ross, Elena, Yi Fei, and Nathan. Ross was just about to start playing with us in 2020 when the pandemic ended our in-person services, so it was a wonderful blessing to have him join us in July. He and his family are returning to Scotland at the end of March, and we thank God for the time they have been with us. We also said goodbye to Abigail at the end of the summer, as she stepped into married life with EJ. Elena was able to sing with us starting this year, and we look forward to her singing her way through to her MIT graduation.

It has been a blessing and honor to serve the church in musical worship. We ask for your prayers and welcome your feedback.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Nathan Abramson, on behalf of the CBC Worship Team

# Elder's Report

Submitted by Paul Carter

In this past year, the elders have worked on the following practical projects:

1. Despite Covid concerns we slowly moved into meeting together in July 202.
2. Because of the isolation of Covid, more effort was put into drawing people together conscious of the Covid restrictions.
3. This also increased our desire to find new ways of drawing in new people.
4. Concern for over-taxing Pastor Dan as the building usage increases.
5. Spent more time sharing out lives as part of the Elder Team in an effort to build deeper community.

In addition to the above projects, the elders spent time considering the following:

1. Read "Wisdom from Babylon" by Gordon Smith together.
  - a. As our culture becomes more secular, we need to realize we are only one of many voices that are listened to by others.
  - b. We need to bring our faith and the good news to others using love and service as well as word.
  - c. How does our practice effect the community around us? How do we influence without condemning?
2. Improving the Counting procedures for the offering to ease our bookkeeper's workload
  - a. 80 to 90 % of our donations are sent in the mail or online.
  - b. Counting still needs to be done accurately in order to keep Eileen's workload at her contracted level.
3. Like most communities Covid has kept people from relating closely together. That is why we sought to meet in person even though many people did feel comfortable yet. Continuing our online presence with continued fellowship and prayer times kept people connected, even from great distances.
4. Drawing in new people will be a continuing effort over the coming summer months as well as increasing opportunities to fellowship together.
5. As the building use increases, which has been a blessing, Pastor Dan has had to pay more attention to this. We are looking at ways to reduce his focus on this.

Trying to build a more effective Elder team has been exciting but also a challenge. We are trying to set aside one meeting a month to focus on what God is doing in our lives and praying for each other individually and as team members. God has been gracious to doing this since we started setting a meeting aside for this effort, because it can always get pushed off since church business can come up. His graciousness has allowed us to take these times for building community and intimacy as a team in a mighty way. One highlight has been seeing some Elders take some steps of faith and walking with them in prayer through that.

Thank You for letting us serve you. Please talk to one of us if you have concerns, we would like to know anything that is on your minds.



# **Greeting Ministry Report**

Submitted by Kimberlee Thorburn

Over this past year there have been a number of changes in the Greeting Ministry at Cambridgeport Baptist. At this time last year, we were still all worshipping online. Due to the online setting, the Greeting Ministry really was not functioning at that time, though Mama Dot always made a point to welcome all who gathered together virtually!

This brings me to what was perhaps one of the biggest changes to our ministry in this past year. Dorothy Wemett, known to all as Mama Dot, made the hard decision to no longer attend Cambridgeport Baptist in-person. This led to a completion of her service as the leader of the Greeting Ministry. Mama Dot is missed greatly for her tireless dedication to the ministry which she ran with such order and thoughtfulness for many years. It was clear to anyone who knows Dot that the way she ran the ministry was an overflow of her heart – for all who came through the doors of Cambridgeport Baptist to feel welcome and known.

In July, Rebecca Mullikin and I began serving as leaders of the Greeting Ministry. Returning to in-person services during the pandemic has impacted all ministries at CBC, and the Greeting Ministry is no exception. Largely due to complications caused by the pandemic, our team of active greeters has shrunk considerably. Also, when first returning to in-person worship, the decision was made to have the offering plates placed in designated spots in the front and back of the sanctuary instead of passing them. We believed this would cut down on sharing germs as well as accommodate for a smaller team of greeters. We currently still have the plates stationed in the designated spots each Sunday because our active team is very small. Some roles of the greeters, however, have not changed upon the return to in-person worship. The greeters continue to welcome attendees at the door, count all those in attendance, collect the offering from the plates, and prepare/clean up communion on the first Sunday of the month.

I am hopeful that members of our team who have been unable to serve due to pandemic complications will soon be able to again be an active greeter! You are missed and I thank you for serving with the team in the past. I would also like to thank current team members: Angel Katche, Holly Wiegand, Kayla Berg, and Melaku Zewde. Your hard work, kindness, and flexibility does not go unnoticed!

# **Clerk's Report**

Submitted by Emily Lo Gibson

## **Clerk's Report for 2021-2022**

Submitted by Emily Lo Gibson

07 April 2022

### **Membership**

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On 01 May 2021:	38 voting members, 0 non-voting
On 06 November 2021:	26 voting members, 1 non-voting
Total membership:	52 voting, 20 non-voting
New members:	One: Denise G. Ribeiro
Deceased:	One: Donna Richardson
Changed from non-voting to voting:	Zero
Changed from voting to non-voting:	Five: Abigail Anderson Sefah, Alex Sheh, Karen Sheh, Melanie Vaughn Warren, Peter York
Transferred to another church:	Three: Adekunle Adeyemo (May 2021), Gideon and Irene Lee (2019)
Dropped from non-voting membership:	Three: Adekunle Adeyemo, Gideon Lee, Irene Lee

### **Select Events in the Life of the Church**

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#### **Baptisms**

Anna Bailey (17 April 2022)

Brian Thurm (17 April 2022)

Scott Thurm (17 April 2022)

#### **Births**

Theodore James Kettle, born to Ross and Nadia Kettle (17 October 2021)

Lainey Rae Logeman, born to Brandon and Jessie Logeman (24 March 2022)

#### **Deaths**

Frances Ontiveros (09 November 2021)

Donna Richardson (11 February 2022)

### Dedications

Ada Gutwin (10 April 2022)  
Ezra Gutwin (10 April 2022)  
Bénédict Kwok-Lecarme (10 April 2022)  
Céléstine Kwok Lecarme (10 April 2022)  
Kweli Shitemi (10 April 2022)

### Weddings

Melanie Vaughn and Jacob Warren (08 May 2021)  
Abigail M. Anderson and Ebenezer Sefah (29 August 2021)

### Other Events

16 May 2021: Peter and Janet York's last Sunday before moving to Milford, CT. They have attended CBC since 2014 and 2018, respectively. Peter served in youth ministry, and Janet served on the greeting team.

June 2021: Graduation of Anna Bailey, Peter Carr Jr., Rachel Kim, and David Van Hise.

27 June 2021: The Sheh family's last Sunday before moving to Rochester, NY. They have been at CBC since 2006 and served in numerous capacities. Karen remains on staff.

11 July 2021: First in-person service since the COVID-19 pandemic shut down.

26 September 2021: Jacqueline Tan and Shi-Jun "SJ" Ang's last Sunday before returning to Singapore with their son. They were involved in the international student ministry while postdocs at MIT.

18 November 2021: One year anniversary memorial service for Anthonie Dunah.

20 March 2022: The Kettle family's last Sunday before returning to Scotland, after attending CBC for about two years. Ross served on the worship team.

16 April 2022: Memorial service for Donna Richardson.

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It's been my pleasure to serve as clerk this past year. I'm thankful to Glenn Berry, my predecessor, and to Pastor Dan and the many others who oriented me to the inner workings of church life.

I recorded minutes for the annual and semi-annual member meetings and the budget forum, as well as updated the current and historic membership rolls. I also received a record request from an attendee of Immanuel Baptist Church, the congregation that preceded CBC. While I have not been able to fulfill this request as of the writing of this report, I did go on multiple treasure hunts in our historic church building and online newspaper archives. I hope that my successor will be able to follow up. It was a great reminder of the legacy we carry.

Last June, I took additional minutes at two reopening forums, in preparation for the transition from online to hybrid services. On 11 July 2021, we gathered to worship at 459 Putnam Avenue for the first time in person since the pandemic shut down. Hallelujah!

It's this embodiment that reminds me of a clerk's true duty. The names above are our church family. These dates are times of great joy, of physical and spiritual new life. They also represent moments of great sorrow, with the departure of loved ones. The pandemic has made it difficult to observe these milestones together and to even properly recognize everyone who comes and goes. I'm sorry if I have missed events that should have been mentioned here. Please follow up if this is the case, so that this report can be amended.

I have put together a short guide to help with the clerkship handover. It's been a busy year, but my experience is still limited here. Any words of advice from my predecessors and others are most welcome as we consider how the clerk might best serve the church.

May we remember each member of the body of Christ here at CBC! God has been faithful through this challenging season and will remain so. Let's continue to pray for new members and the growth of the church. It's been an honor to serve you all!

Peace,  
Emily Lo Gibson

P.S. I have received requests from certain members to include "outtakes" from our meetings, moments of candid conversation that wouldn't usually be included in official records. (The IRS, who can audit our minutes, doesn't seem to have a sense of humor.) To satisfy these requests, here are some overheard gems:

At Karen Sheh's last congregational meeting:

<Pastor Dan mimes piercing Karen's ear with an awl.> (*See Deuteronomy 15:7.*)

Karen: "You're making me grateful I'm working online."

Bill Boxx: "We *awl* love you, Karen. *Awl* of us."

On upgrading equipment for Zoom:

Pastor Dan: "We would need a makeup line for the senior pastor!"

Member 1: "Wardrobe!"

Member 2: "What about for Shtem?"

## Care Team

Submitted by Sema B

April 30th, 2022

Members: Jan Bothwell, Paul Bothwell, Rebecca Gutwin, Denise Ribeiro, Kim Thorburn, Tracy Wemett, Sema Bekiroglu

Former Members: Abigail Anderson Sefah, Peter York

Partners: Pastor Dan, Anna Bailey, Michael Dean, Michelle Harper, Dorothy Wemett, Cory Potter, Laura Singleton, Lisa Carr

This year we had to say goodbye to two wonderful members, Abigail and Peter. We thank them for their efforts and know their new churches are blessed to have them.

The team is continuing much of what we did last year which is visiting, calling, and writing to Carol Freeman on the regular. Carol has recently transitioned from Watertown Health and is currently at Everett Nursing & Rehabilitation Center following treatment at Mount Auburn Hospital for GI issues. Thankfully Denise Ribeiro, Laura Singleton, and Pastor Dan (along with Kathy) have been able to keep prayers alive for her in the daily prayer meetings. Anna Bailey has assisted Carol with keeping her in the loop with CBC emails and announcements. Michelle Harper, Pastor Dan, and the Bothwells have been actively visiting her, even when she is now further away. Laura, Denise, Dorothy Wemett (Mama Dot), Tracy Wemett and Cory Potter have also been sending her presents. Below is a photo of Carol with some treats from Mama Dot. Although the care is consistent, Carol sometimes gets lonely and misses her CBC friends. We could still use more people to look in on her if interested, and always please keep praying for comfort & peace in her routine. Special thank you to Lisa Carr who had planned to visit Carol around the holidays, but was not able to because Mount Auburn disabled visiting due to the pandemic.

The Care Team was able to assist Michael Dean's International Ministry at MIT with providing food at (2) events this year, the Thanksgiving event and the Game night held in the beginning of March. Thank you to Rebecca Gutwin for baking her tasty treats!

Although CBC is meeting in person again, there are some members who have yet to make it back and should probably know we are still thinking of them. If you would like to reach out to someone or know someone who could use a check in, please feel free to write

## **Media Team Report**

Submitted by Sloan Kanaski

April 30th, 2022

The past year has been one of great change for the media team (as it has been for everyone). When the year began, church was still fully virtual, and we had a large enough team of volunteers to schedule two volunteers per week to help manage our large Zoom calls.

As you all know, partway through the year, CBC transitioned to mixed in-person/online service. Praise God for a return to in-person community! With this, many of CBC's other ministries were able to resume more formal operations, and many of the media volunteers were called into these other ministries. This left the media with a small team of three individuals.

The transition was tough at first. Should we still try to schedule two people per Sunday? How do we properly coordinate sound and video across both the sanctuary and the Zoom call? As some of you may remember, there were many hiccups at first, but God's grace is sufficient for all things! After coordination with the sound team and significant trial and error, the three of us managed to establish a stable rhythm. We've even drafted a media procedures guide, and are welcoming Nathan Berry as an up and coming fourth member of the media team.

Thank you all for your past, present, and future prayer for the media team. I look forward to seeing what God will do with this ministry in the coming year!

# Communication Report

Submitted by Karen Sheh

April 30, 2022

Dear CBC,

When our family moved away from Cambridge last year it was my intention to stay on for just a little longer to help the transition to our new admin, Anna. However, given the pandemic's way of allowing remote work of all kinds, and my existing working relationship with Pastor Dan things didn't turn out that way!

I'm currently still on staff (remotely) at 10 hours a week, joining the staff for weekly meetings and helping out when and where I'm needed. My tasks are mostly divided into two categories:

## **Building usage:**

Now that all users are back in the building, (JHOP, Mahanaim, Journey Church, and us of course) the complex scheduling is something that needs multiple sets of eyes on it to prevent conflicts and ensure communication happens between different building users.

## **Online Presence:**

*Website:* I'm keeping our website updated with relevant information, including sermons.

*Social Media:* This past year I spent a lot of time developing and running ads on social media to reach some of our local students. I collaborated with Will Eifler from Hilltop Church for some ideas on types of content to produce, and Rebecca Gutwin for some high quality photos. The analytics data shows that we have reached a number of the target audience. Additionally, because some of the content involved interviewing and writing up testimonies from some of our members, I really enjoyed the process and felt edified by and hope to continue doing more of this going forward.

*YouTube:* I continue to edit and post our Sunday services on YouTube so they are available to the public.

I've enjoyed being able to stay tangentially related to our community at CBC and serve in whatever way I can!

Respectfully,  
Karen Sheh

# **Administration Report**

Submitted by Anna Bailey

April 30,2022

Dear church family,

This year has been full of learning experiences and growth as I came on staff in July of 2021. Throughout this year I have built relationships and communication with the elders, our bookkeeper Eileen, pastor Shtem and Rahel Zewde. I have enjoyed getting to know these key members of our church better as I learn and see how our church functions internally.

This past year I have been helping support the pastoral team, Childrens and family education ministry with teaching on Sunday, getting supplies for sermons as well as the hospitality team during our picnics in the park. I am also in communication with the greeting team and media teams and have continued to be the administrative support for all the various teams at work in the church. One of the ways I support these teams is filling in whenever there are needs in the worship team or with the Children's programming. I provide whatever support they are in need of at the time whether that be with my physical presence, or providing ideas and supplies. Along with being physically present in those ministries, I am tasked with scheduling the various service roles throughout online software MSP and coordinating with our other key ministry teams.

I have also been heavily involved with the special events this year such as our baby dedications, Christmas Eve service, Good Friday service, Easter Sunday and meal trains for new parents and others going through hardship. Along with the planning and conceptualizing for these the preparing the space for these events, I also make sure all decorations and or materials are available in the church, so that the building can feel like a home and a place where worship takes place.

In His Service,

Anna Bailey



