



Christ's Church

Helping People Love and Obey Jesus

2014 Annual Report

Dear friends,

We are excited to report that in 2014, God again enabled Christ's Church to bless people, both here in our region and across the globe. It is a joyful privilege to serve Jesus with a community of believers who understand and are motivated by his astounding grace. Amazingly, we're playing a part in God's plan to display his manifold wisdom through his Church.

People who are giving their lives to Jesus and the Good News inevitably give time and money. So it's a positive sign that individual financial giving increased by 8% in 2014. We believe this represents a corresponding increase in faith and commitment. Let's ask God to continue to draw us into lives of growing generosity as we offer our forgiveness, money, time, and spiritual gifts.

As a congregation, we gave away \$58,000 in 2014, representing a 20% increase over last year. Locally, we met the needs of strangers and friends alike. We supported apostolic work in churches across the country and around the world. We gathered money in December to help the needy in Joplin and in the nations of Haiti and Jordan.

It was also a banner year for participation in small groups. We launched two new groups in January as the number of people participating in small groups increased by 15%. We are excited to see more people enjoying growing relationships with God and with one another in homes throughout the region. We're grateful for the Bible study in which over thirty women participated, and it's been great to see comparable numbers of men currently meeting on Wednesday mornings.

The year also saw an expansion of our service to the children and families who attend Sunday celebrations. We set a goal to offer the full lineup of children's programming at both Sunday meetings by Summer 2015. God was on a different timeline! We reached the goal in October and have seen kids (and the adults who serve them) grow through the new classes we're able to offer. And in related news, attendance is up in the 9 AM meeting.

As we look to 2015, we want to call one another to a year of increasing communication with God. Paul encourages believers, "Rejoice always, pray continually, giving thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess 5:16-18). He writes, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" (Col 4:2). And Jesus tells us, "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you" (Matt 7:7). Let's grow in this!

As we pray, let's ask God to continue to increase our capacity to care for others. Increased capacity means more small groups in more contexts, more leaders, more people serving the church on Sundays and the community throughout the week. It may also mean a more robust staff to train and equip us for these works of service.

On the back of this letter, you will find a record of your individual giving in 2014. If you have questions about your giving statement or would like to request a more detailed report of church finances last year, you may contact the church office at (417) 623-6268. We are also happy to answer any questions you have regarding our administration of financial gifts this year.

Sincerely,

Tim Chambers

Lane Clevenger

Steve Lett