

Pastor's Report
Congregational Business Meeting
July 23, 2020

Our church meets four times every year to review various reports and affirm the work of our committees and ministry teams. But we are living in unusual times. Because of Covid-19, we are unable to gather on our campuses in large groups. Our quarterly business meeting would have been scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020, but with social distancing restrictions, we realize it will not be possible to conduct business as usual.

We do, however, want to keep our church family informed and allow the opportunity for feedback concerning where the church has been, where we are, and where we believe we are going. Our business meetings have traditionally been a brief time of business where we recognize and celebrate what God is doing in and through His church called Parkview.

Prior to every business meeting, we release a packet of reports that include ministry updates, minutes from previous meetings, a membership report, financial statements, and various staff and committee recommendations that our bylaws require our church to affirm. Even though we cannot meet to conduct actual business, we can still provide this packet of reports to our church family. Anything that needs to be officially approved by the church family will be done at the next scheduled business meeting, whenever the social distancing restrictions are relaxed enough for us to assemble together as a church on our campuses.

“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25). I think many of us are at the point where we wish that Day would get here. I also think that in light of a recent study, this verse is perhaps more applicable now than ever before in my lifetime. A recent poll conducted by Barna Research indicates that as many as one-third of professing Christians have not attended a church service, either in-person or online since the Covid-19 outbreak in March. I want to thank you for your faithfulness to the ministry here and the example that you have set for the people in our community.

I look forward to the day when Covid-19 plans are no longer on our agendas and no longer occupy the majority of space in our reports. In the meantime, we are doing our best to maintain open lines of communication and make decisions that protect the well-being and expectations of the majority of our congregation. We know that not every decision will be embraced with enthusiasm by everyone, but we believe that every decision takes into consideration information that others may not have access to. For instance, we did not want to postpone Vacation Bible School, but given the fact that a Covid-19 outbreak from Christ Central's VBS caused them to temporarily shut down their Sunday morning gatherings, we thought that it would be prudent to restructure our VBS to minimize the possibility of a similar occurrence on our campus. We are also asking for and taking into consideration the comfort levels of our volunteers who work in ministries like VBS.

We need to try to protect the integrity of the Sunday morning gathering. We do not want to add programs that will endanger our ability to maintain in-person services. To that end, we believe it is prudent to continue our current schedule beyond the August 9 restart date. We want to continue to engage people who are involved in different ministries. We think we can safely offer next generation ministry programs on different nights of the week. We think we can offer an opportunity for choir members to begin gathering for worship and rehearsal even if they are preparing Sunday morning choir anthems to be sung later in the fall. By maintaining an online only presence for our Wednesday night midweek service, these other ministries will have the calendar and building space to start back up. The key is to not overcrowd the campus on any given day. We hope that by the beginning of September we will be able to make better-informed decisions about future programming.

We want to encourage our life group leaders to find new ways to keep their groups connected. If Zoom isn't working for everyone, consider meeting in homes on Sunday nights since we are not meeting for corporate worship on Sunday nights right now. You can alternate an in-home meeting with a zoom meeting and even when you meet in a home, you can offer a zoom alternative. Please let us know how we can help your life group stay connected or get reconnected.

The leadership team for Parkview Fitness has come up with a good, safe plan for re-opening Parkview Fitness with reduced hours, a strict sanitizing regiment, and limited occupancy. As of today, the plan is to reopen on Monday, August 3. As with all of the programs we offer, it is based on volunteer support and potential participation. The hours of operation will be MWF, 7-11am and TTh, 4-6pm. We will make the Parkview Fitness Covid-19 Operating procedures available on our website. We will also be glad to email a copy to anyone interested in joining.

Summer is the season that we nominate men to serve as deacons. We have four men who are completing their three-year terms. We are asking the congregation to assist us in this process by going online and submitting their nominations. You can go to our website and click on the Deacon Nominations tab to submit names for consideration.

In addition to the normal reports in October, we will be bringing committee recommendations from the nominating committee, bylaw change recommendations from the faith and practice committee, budget recommendations from the stewardship committee, and holiday and service schedule recommendations from our deacons. Our plan is to make these proposals available to the congregation by the end of September, at least thirty days prior to our business meeting.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the kingdom with you every day. On behalf of the entire staff, please know that we love you and miss you and cannot wait once again to be able to worship with you in person. If you need anything, please let someone know. Our church office, deacons and Life Group leaders are ready to serve you and meet your needs wherever possible. Stay safe and stay connected.

Children's Ministry Report

Parkview Family,

Thank you for your prayers and your generosity for our family over the last couple of months. We have been overwhelmed by the love that we were shown by our Parkview family at Caleb's Baby shower and through the meals and cards we received after his birth. It is a joy to serve alongside a church family that is so willing and ready to share God's love in such a tangible way.

As we continue to meet with an adjusted schedule on Sunday mornings, our Next Generation Ministries will continue to meet as they have for the last few weeks. Children and Preschool Life Groups are meeting on Sundays at 11:00am. Thank you to our Life Group teachers and First Impression Team members that are faithfully sharing the gospel with children each week while also helping with check-in, temperature checks, and escorting kids to their classes. Until we are able to return to a more normal schedule on Sunday mornings with two hours of Next Generation Ministry, I will continue to record and share Children's Worship Online videos each week through our social media pages. We will also be sharing information soon about some gatherings for smaller groups of children on weeknights over the next few weeks.

Earlier this month, our 3rd-5th Grade children were here for two days of camp at Parkview. Our theme for the camp was With Us, and we learned that Jesus is always with us, He cares for us, and He rescues us. While we all missed being able to go and spend a week at camp, I am thankful for this opportunity to study God's Word together and have fun. Join me in praying that God would continue to work in the lives of these children and use what we learned to grow their faith.

Last week was supposed to be our Vacation Bible School at Parkview, but due to the significant increase in local cases over the last few weeks, we had to postpone VBS for most of our age groups. This was a hard decision to make, and was only decided after extensive discussions with our core VBS leadership team, parents and grandparents of our children, and our church staff. As always, we will do all that we can to keep our families safe and ensure that we are able to continue meeting for Worship each Sunday morning. Once we are able to begin meeting again in person on Wednesday nights this fall, we will take the first five to seven weeks to do VBS with our preschoolers and elementary aged children. Our 4th and 5th Graders still gathered last week for VBS with Kinita Bishop and her team. The 8 children and 4 leaders present were much better equipped to meet and learn safely than the significantly larger group of children and leaders that we were expecting with a full VBS. I am so thankful for the efforts of so many teachers, decorators, and volunteers that were already prepared to share the gospel and the love of Christ with the children of our church and community. VBS is one of my favorite weeks of every year, and I can't wait until we are able to gather together this fall.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our Children's Ministry. I'm grateful for a church family that is so passionate about reaching the next generation with the gospel, and I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him here alongside you.

Thank you,

Daniel Morris

Parkview Family,

My first couple weeks have been different, but my family and I are settling in nice! We are so ecstatic to be here! Our students have just wrapped up a student camp type event on campus at Parkview. It was a great three days of worship, games, and bible study! You can help by continuing to pray that seeds were sown, and that God grows those seeds.

We have graduation Sunday coming up on August 2nd, we will recognize these students and have a lunch right after the service to honor these graduates. The following Sunday, August 9th, we will be having a middle school hangout where we will be bringing up the incoming 6th graders. I'm looking forward to this crew coming in!

With all things COVID-19, we will not be meeting on Wednesday for the foreseeable future. In place of that we will be creating socially distant events for the students. Be praying for these get togethers, as this is an opportunity for our students to grow in relationship with one another but also with the Sammons family!

For His glory,

JonSeth Sammons

Worship Ministry Report

Parkview Family,

I've been so encouraged by our church family over the last few months. These are obviously very trying days. Know that we as a staff are praying for you constantly. My prayer right now is that of Ephesians 1:15-23. "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you."

Mike has been preaching through the book of Ephesians lately and I've been convicted and encouraged by the words of this book. The world we live in is filled with so much division and hatred. My prayer for the church is that we would speak the gospel into the lives of our neighbors and our community. In the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Church has the most unifying message of all. This gospel brings people together from every background, race, culture, and economic status. I pray that we would not give in to the division of the world but continue to make much of Jesus.

In regard to our worship ministry, we are continuing to do ministry in the best way we can. We are working on a plan to safely and wisely begin to meet for choir in person once again. We're hoping to do that soon in the Fall season. I sure have missed the presence of our choir behind me on Sunday mornings. They lead us so well every week and I'm ready for them to help lead us again soon.

We've made some significant upgrades to our online streaming equipment over the last few months. I hope that for those who continue to watch from home that this has been a welcomed upgrade. We want to work to ensure that each of our broadcasts are the best that they can possibly be. I'm so grateful for our media team who have served faithfully over the last few months. They work behind the scenes but have been the unsung heroes of our services. John Croft has given many hours to making sure our online stream is excellent. Be sure to thank him and all of our media team when you have a chance.

Psalm 143:6 says, "I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land." Let's continue to pursue Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Soli Deo gloria!

Pastor Skylar

Parkview Family,

It's difficult to wrap my mind around the fact that we are over halfway through the year 2020. It has been a real whirlwind; however, I have been left in awe of the patience, commitment and overall optimism that our local church family has shown. It is truly, truly encouraging to know that you all are here at Parkview to worship and serve Jesus no matter the circumstance. There has been a lot of adaptation, change and mild chaos during this time, but I have heard nothing but encouragement from our people. This probably means more to me (and all of our staff) than you would think!

I know that we all long for the day when we can meet together regularly without any fear of illness or discomfort (I'm with you!), but I want to encourage you to keep connecting with us as you have, no matter what changes take place in our world. We are moving forward, trying to connect with you all in whatever ways that are possible. We are trying to navigate this season with wisdom, so our gatherings and programming will inevitably look different than they have in the past. Regardless, we want these gatherings and programs to be helpful, encouraging and meaningful.

"Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Would we look, not to the fleeting pleasures that the enemy wants to deceive us with, but rather to Jesus. Remember that if we are not actively seeking God, but are instead complacent in our faith, the current of the world will cause us to drift. This is why it is so important for us (even though we are distant) to continue stirring up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), reminding each other of our purpose often. We aren't intended to walk this faith journey independently. Let's depend ultimately on God, and also recognise our need for each other! If we isolate ourselves, we will inevitably turn our eyes to worthless things; let's instead turn our eyes to Christ.

We will continue to keep you all posted on how we plan to connect. As always, this information will be available in our emails, on social media, as well as announcements in our worship gatherings. Skylar and I would love to help you or encourage you in any way that we can, and we hope to see you all connecting with us each week, either in-person or online.

In Christ,
David Harris