

Annual Report, Pastor Keith Hunholz
Interim Pastor

On January 15, 2022 I officially began serving as the interim pastor of People's Church. My first sermon series on John 14-15 reminded the church of the focus and means of our ministry together, which is based on a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. A message from Joshua 1 spelled out the keys to success in life and ministry. During the weeks preceding Easter, we learned from Jesus principles for discipleship from Mark 8-10. In addition to preaching and leading the adult Sunday School class, I worked through many Psalms on Wednesday evening to lead us into prayer. During this first phase of ministry, a primary effort was made to make visits on as many members, regular attenders, and some former members, to get acquainted and gain insights on the strengths and growth areas of the church.

April marked the formation of a Transition Team that would help me continue to evaluate the health of People's Church. Ray Babb, Vicky DeRoos, Carol Duran, Greg Ferguson, Jim Hardt, Shelley Johnson, and Marry Page began meeting on a regular basis to help guide the church through the evaluation phase. An assessment was completed by 30 of the active people in the church to give some insight. The many members of the church gathered together under the direction of the Transition Team one Sunday after church to help prepare a timeline of the history of People's Church. Small groups of 5-6 shared together around tables positive memories, as well as some sad moments, and these memories were placed on the timeline. Then together, we celebrated our glorious past of People's Church, and then expressed what we would like to see happen in the next five years. It was a memorable experience. Our

sermon series on Revelation 23 instructed us on how Jesus evaluates His churches.

During the summer months, People's Church had a change in the secretary position. Judy Sevall helped Janet Kopp make the transition of taking over responsibility as secretary from Carol Cowell. In November, Michelle McCarney volunteered to share the duties with Janet, and they have become a very good team. Richard LaFranka took over leadership of the Food Pantry duties, for which we are very grateful. He has been giving good direction to this important ministry. During these months, the Transition Team was carefully putting together our church's Mission Statement, Core Values, and Vision Statement. Our sermon series during these months came from Ezekiel, and we learned together about his mission and the visions God gave him.

In August I enjoyed sharing with the "90's Group" at a picnic put tother by Judy Sevall, and the congregation learned from Nehemiah about "Building Blocks for a Healthy Church. This month also marked my conclusion of People's Church Assessment Report. In it, I presented my findings on the health of the church and gave some Action Steps for the church to consider. The Elder Board has taken steps on a number of these considerations. A copy is available from the office for any who did not receive one. The youth and children's ministries encouraged the youth of the community to come together for a number of very special Wednesday evening events. A Vacation Bible School also took place, touching many young people. Several elders and other willing workers contacted the parents of those who attended, with the hopes of involving families.

September was a busy month for the church. The month started with a joint service with the Hispanic church that shares our building, as it is important for our two churches to get better acquainted and work together when possible. On September 18, People's Church celebrated its 80th anniversary. Former pastor John Billow encouraged the church to look forward and continue to fulfill the ministry God has for her. A sermon series based on I Thessalonians helped us understand how to build disciples in the church.

In October, the children's Ministry put on a very successful Trunk or Treat with many children involved. The direction of the Wednesday children's ministry was revised a bit, with more classes enabling teachers to have fewer in each class, to help develop relationships with the youth who attend. I gave leadership to one class, allowing Murry and others to lead the Wednesday prayer group. Steps were taken to begin forming a Search Team/committee as we are now ready to enter the final phase of the Interim program. I have greatly enjoyed working together with the Elders and leaders of the church and look forward taking steps now to go through the process of finding the pastor God has in mind for People's Church, who will lead them to the next steps of the journey God has for them.

Through His grace &
for His glory,

Pastor Keith