



the grove
CHURCH

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



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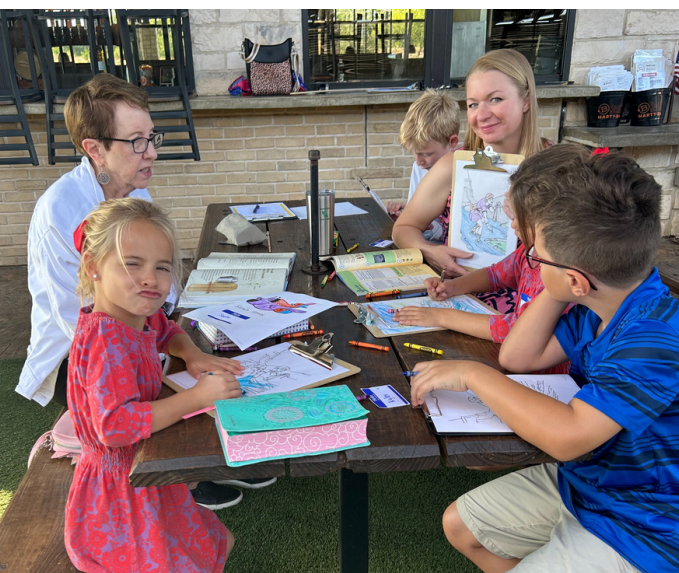
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A WORD FROM PASTOR BEN

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable journey we've undertaken together at The Grove Church. In the 2023 Annual Report, you will witness the flourishing of our congregation—a testament to our collective commitment to praise God, equip one another in the faith, and go and serve the world around us. We've grown spiritually, expanded outreach initiatives, and embraced transformative connections among the generations.

The pages ahead echo the stories of unwavering devotion and accomplishments that define our shared mission: to be a family that exists to meet people where they are and help them come alive in Christ.

As we step into 2024, I anticipate a continuation of this divine momentum. The exciting chapters awaiting us promise deeper connections, broader impact, and by the grace of God, land of our own that would be dedicated to better serving our community. May this report inspire and uplift, reflecting the boundless possibilities of our gracious God in heaven.

Blessings,



Ben Scheck

BEN SCHECK
PASTOR



PRAISE

You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! Isaiah 55:12

AT THE GROVE, WHEN WE GATHER TO SHARE IN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, WE CAN'T HELP BUT SHOUT ABOUT THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION AND CRY OUT TO HIM IN OUR CHALLENGES AND STRUGGLES.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

4	Baptisms • 1 infant • 3 children	10	Confirmed • 6 youth • 4 adults	199	Easter Worshippers • 83 Guests	130	Christmas Worshippers • 36 Guests
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Ash Wednesday & Good Friday services held at Steve & Jan Johnson's home



Hometown Candlelight Christmas held at Harvest Community on December 22



WORSHIP & MUSIC

THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM SEEKS TO LEAD GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXPRESSING THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH SONGS AND VISUAL ELEMENTS AT OUR WORSHIP GATHERINGS. OUR TEAM INCLUDES EVERYTHING FROM WORSHIP PLANNING AND SONG SELECTION TO LEADING THE MUSIC, MANAGING THE AUDIO SYSTEM AND VIDEO SLIDES, AND STREAMING THE WHOLE THING LIVE ON FACEBOOK EACH WEEK.

THE GROVE WORSHIP TEAM HAD...



66 hours of rehearsal to prepare and lead...



55 worship events and...



52 live stream services on Facebook including...



104 different worship songs using...

Youth volunteers
46.4%



Adult Volunteers
53.6%



Most Sung Worship Songs in 2023

- *Let Me Count the Ways*
- *God So Loved*
- *It Is So*

We are always excited to welcome new teammates who God calls to join us in making a joyful noise and leading his people in worship! We are looking for talents in the areas of music, technology, and visual arts, with opportunities to serve ranging from occasionally from home to every Sunday at Marty B's.



EQUIP

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

PART OF THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS OF THE GROVE CHURCH IS TO EQUIP DISCIPLES TO GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD AND TO USE THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

ADULT MINISTRY

We seek to equip adult members through co-ed weekday Bible studies, Life Groups and men's and women's groups.

LIFE GROUPS

- Life Groups are committed groups of 8-15 people who spend time in God's Word, enjoy community around food, and serve the greater community.
- This year we've increased to 8 Life Groups in the Church.
- We've completed 2 unique 10-week Rooted groups with a total of 17 new member participants.



WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

- Two home Bible study groups were offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the year.
- Groups completed books of the Bible studies on Revelation & Job.
- Discipleship and evangelism studies included: Lost Cause, Love in Chaos, & Advent utilizing Right Now Media.



MEN'S MINISTRY

- Coordinated by Drew Corn since July
- An average of 10 men met once a month at Cristina's restaurant in Flower Mound.
- Gatherings focused on friendship, support, fellowship and study of the book *Stepping Up: A Call To Courageous Manhood* by Dennis Rainey.
- Attending monthly Men's Bible Breakfast at Marty B's with men from all over the community



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- Erin Winter coordinated Bible journaling gatherings.
- An average of 12 women engaged with Scripture through art (Sept-Dec).
- A crafting, cooking, and devotion-filled women's Christmas party celebrated Jesus' birth with 23 in attendance.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



AS CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT TO JESUS, THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO US AT THE GROVE. FOR THE CHILDREN, PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE, WE HAVE OUR SMALL FRIES PROGRAM. WE FOCUS ON HAVING A LESSON EVERY MONTH, CALLED SMALL FRIES CONNECTION TIME, WHERE THE CHILDREN DO A CRAFT AND LEARN THE WORD OF GOD, ALONG WITH THE WEEKLY MEMORY VERSES TO HELP THE CHILDREN GET INTO THEIR BIBLES AND START LEARNING THE SCRIPTURES. OUR PROGRAM IS CONTINUOUSLY GROWING AND OUR LEADERS ARE EXCITED TO BE INVOLVED WITH ALL THE SMALL FRIES KIDS!



SMALL

HIGHLIGHTS

- Started monthly lessons in February with the goal of having one each month. What a success seeing all the kids there having fun!
- Our program grew with more wonderful helping hands this year. Marge Tracy, Catherine Corn, and Heather Swanberg joined the Small Fries team.
- We focused on learning how to pray and talk with God this year. We end each lesson with prayer. The kids share what they want to pray for or thank God for and we share these prayers with Pastor Ben so he can include them in our Sunday worship.

STORIES

- Marge's "3 in 1" apple lesson was one of the kids' favorites this year. She brought delicious apple slices for the kids to enjoy while reading the "3 in 1" book and learning about the Trinity.
- As part of Connection Time lessons, the kids participated by putting together "Operation Christmas Child" boxes and helping to create scarves by drawing what they learned that day on the scarves.
- The last lesson of the year was the story of Jesus's Birth, which featured a Christmas story snack mix to go along with the lesson. Each piece of the snack mix represented a part of the Christmas story.



FRIES





FC GROVE

FC GROVE STANDS FOR *FAITH CONFIRMATION GROVE* AND IS OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP STUDENTS COME ALIVE THROUGH PERSONAL AND PUBLIC CONFESSIONS OF FAITH AND TIMES OF INSTRUCTION WHERE THEY LEARN TO UNDERSTAND AND IDENTIFY WITH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

WE MEET AS A LARGE GROUP ON A BIWEEKLY BASIS AND ON OFF WEEKS, STUDENTS WORK THROUGH A LESSON WITH THEIR FAMILIES. WITHIN FC GROVE, THERE ARE TWO LIFE GROUPS, WHERE STUDENTS DIVE DEEPER INTO THE MATERIAL AND ARE MENTORED BY ADULT LEADERS.



6 eighth graders were confirmed in the spring

2023 CONFIRMANDS

Greta Brill, Neil Butler, James Gesch, Luke Hartjen, Malia McLain, Seth Williams

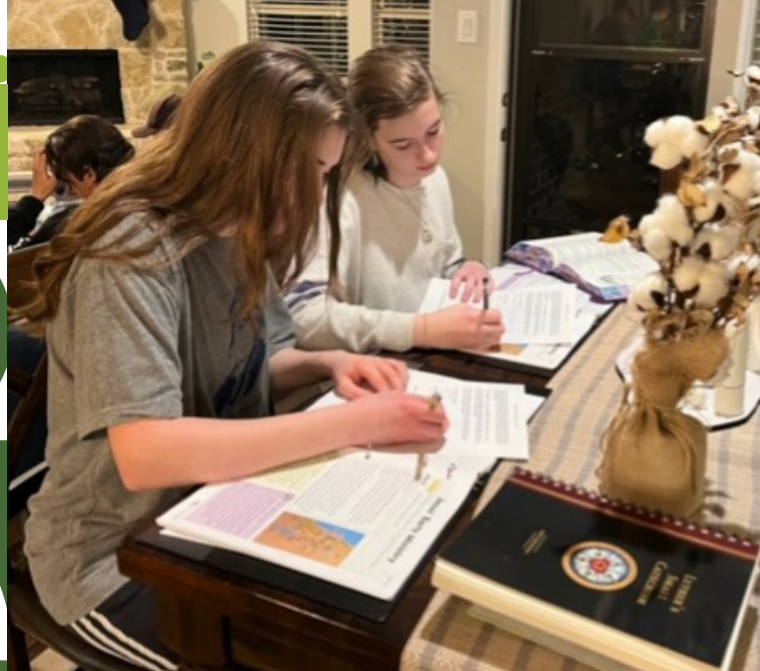
GATHERING

5

new students were added in the new fall class

2

new adult leaders for life groups joined



GROWING

62%

participation at the optional Fall retreat

100%

student attendance at the Spring retreat at Camp Copass



SERVING

>50%

volunteered at the final trash pick-up day, which was completely optional

24

blessing bags were packed during our Fall service event



ROOTED

ROOTED IS THE GROVE CHURCH'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP. THE GROUP MEETS TWICE A MONTH TO DEVELOP AND REFINE STUDENTS' FAITH. WE STRIVE TO HAVE AN OPEN GROUP THAT TALKS ABOUT ALL OF LIFE'S CHALLENGES AND WALKS TOGETHER WITH EACH OTHER AND CHRIST. WE ENCOURAGE AN OPEN FORMAT WHERE STUDENTS CAN ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND LOOK FOR BIBLICALLY-BACKED ANSWERS. WE ARE IN OUR 3RD YEAR OF CONSTANT GROWTH AND LOOK FORWARD TO EVERYTHING GOD HAS IN FRONT OF US.



One of our students has been dealing with personal conflicts that has not allowed them to be consistent with coming to our group. Rather than excluding this student and making it hard for them to return to the group, Rooted students have been amazing with their love and compassion. Not only welcoming this student back, but allowing them to speak hard truths and walk through challenges with them.

“Rooted has truly shown how we live out God’s message to love one another.”

Rooted currently has

7

students who attend regularly. They are looking forward to growing in number, growing closer to one another, and growing closer to God.

STUDENT FAVES

- amazing conversations
- studies on apologetics
- strengthening faith
- asking the hard questions

- Freshman Welcoming
- Summer activities
- Christmas Party

HIGHLIGHT EVENTS





GO

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

MISSION OUTREACH IS THE WAY WE SERVE GOD BY REACHING OUT TO HELP THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. MISSION OUTREACH STRIVED TO HAVE AN EVENT OR DONATION COLLECTION EACH MONTH. WE PROVIDED PEOPLE WITHIN THE GROVE INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE. WE THANK GOD FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED AND THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO REACH OUT INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

MISSION OUTREACH



CLOSER TO HOME

“It’s great for the church to do collections for charity groups because it makes my children feel part of how we serve Jesus. They even spent their own money to buy baby dolls to donate for Christmas presents.”



ADOPT A HIGHWAY

- We cleaned 2 miles of roadside along FM 407 four different times.

CHRIST’S HAVEN

- Workdays and house cleaning events
- Several donation drives were held for the children’s needs.
- Life Groups sponsored trunk or treat vehicles with candy and games.

MARTY B’S STAFF

- Gatorade drive during the summer heat
- Special collection for staff battling a health crisis

GLOO

- We added 2 new First Responders to meet people where they are in their time of need and serve them.

GIVING GRACE

- We collected items for a new homeless shelter and gifts for the annual Christmas Party.
- Several people volunteered at the Christmas party for clients.



I was so intimidated working with GLOO explorers at first but it never was about me, but the Holy Spirit working through me. One woman really just needed someone to pray on her behalf, not to give up on her marriage. So many people in her life were telling her to walk away from her marriage, yet she really didn’t want a divorce. So to have someone, advocating for her Christian marriage and praying for it to be restored, if that was God’s will, was refreshing to her.

5 members on the Mission Outreach Steering Team

5 mission area group leads

5 GLOO First Responders

41 boxes provided for Operation Christmas Child

80% of the Grove’s families participated in collection drives and events

52 GLOO Explorers were served

There are several ways we can serve:

- Good – helping people have a better life through physical or financial means
- Better – developing relationships and serving people together
- Best – making relationships with people so we can introduce them to Jesus

LEADERSHIP ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATION

THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY AT THE GROVE SERVES SEVERAL POPULATIONS OF PEOPLE. FIRST, IT SERVES OUR MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES THROUGH THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER, SPECIAL EMAILS, OUR GROVE FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE, TABLE CARDS AT WORSHIP SERVICES, AND EMAIL/TEXT BLASTS. THE SECOND GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT IT IS TRYING TO REACH ARE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, OUT IN THE COMMUNITY AND EVEN FURTHER. WE PRIMARILY USE THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR THIS BUT ALSO THE TABLE CARDS TO NEW VISITORS, ADS ON FACEBOOK, AND ADS IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.



3.2K individuals visited our website in 2023, up 9% from last year

2.6K first time website visitors, which is increase of 15% from the year before

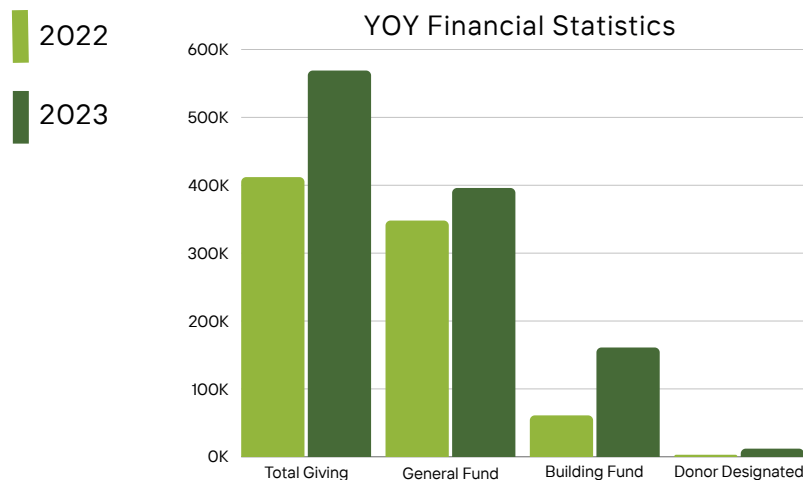
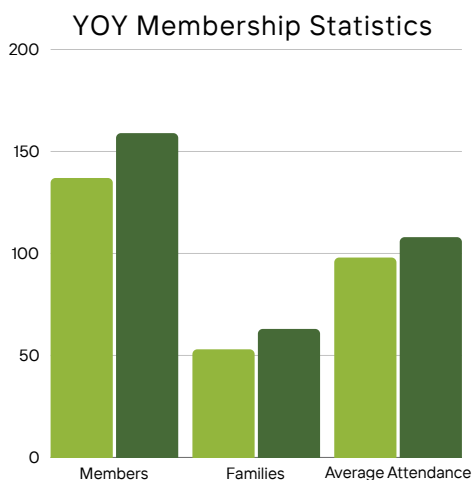
19.4K people saw our Welcome video on Facebook, a 100% increase from the 1st run

510 Facebook followers

100 Instagram followers

43 countries represented by visitors to The Grove website, up about 28%

THE GROVE IS GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF 5 MEMBERS WHO OVERSEE THE POLICY AND FINANCES OF THE CHURCH.



GOALS FOR 2024

WORSHIP TEAM

- Continued diversity of musical styles, instrumentation, and volunteers
- Raise up an A/V Team Leader to more effectively share the Gospel through our on-line and technical capabilities

ADULT MINISTRY

- Select, train, and send a Spiritual Life Team of men and women to care for the spiritual needs of the church members and community.
 - Focus especially on those not connected to Life Group
 - Attention to those hospitalized, facing surgery or recovery, and milestone moments in life
 - Offer prayer, encouragement, support, and spiritual guidance to individuals and families

SMALL FRIES

- Have two Small Fries Connection Time lessons a month
- Continue learning about prayer and praying together as we learn about God and His wonderful love.

FC GROVE

- Schedule both a social and a service event each semester and a social during the summer.

ROOTED

- Grow regular attendance of high school students by 40%.
- Help students to mentor and challenge each other in their faith journey

MISSION OUTREACH

- Add 2 more in-person, relationship-building events with local partners
- Complete a foreign mission trip to Nicaragua
- Plan a U.S. mission trip for families

COMMUNICATIONS

- Increase communication via Facebook with upcoming events, worship themes, and Bible verses
- Recruit a younger person in the congregation who would like to post on Instagram for us.

