

Dear Salem Family,

I hope this summer has given you ample opportunity to fill up and be refreshed outdoors! With our recent Vision release and summer challenges it's been exciting to hear about families walking through and praying over their neighborhoods. It may sound simple, but it's a foundational step for how we seek to see God at work. But if you're like us, then your summer flew by. For us, we missed all of June in Georgia, plus have Josiah at home, so we feel like we missed out on some opportunities. So, if you haven't started on your prayer walks, no fret, there is still time!

As we amp up for all that's ahead, let's keep the Vision in mind. Our vision is ultimately about building a discipling culture. **Loving like Jesus and multiplying disciples is something so easy...it's easy to miss. But if it's true, it changes everything!** Undergirding our Vision is that we want to be about both *spiritual formation* and *gospel saturation*. As we are made more into his image (by the work of the Spirit) we take the gospel to those God brings us into contact with. I'm excited to remind you that we'll be starting our Fall with a four-week series on our Vision Frame (Values, Mission, Strategy, Marks, and Vision proper). After that we'll finish the fall in the book of Daniel. Even the Kids Ministry will be going through Daniel on Wednesday nights too – in effort to bridge the gap and integrate our church family together. It will be an exciting Fall!

As we keep the vision in mind, this past year we've been praying and working on how to best align and steward our staffing budget so that we can better serve our church in this Vision season. One strategy we learned looking at other churches was to make a shift to more part-time roles, which has helped us broaden (and deepen) our ministry impact. Ultimately, my prayer is that God build the best team possible around our Vision Frame. Here are some exciting changes that have happened over the Spring & Summer:

- **Worship:** **Luke Johnson** was added part-time as the **Worship Technology Support**. His primary role will be the behind the scenes work of all that it takes to run a Sunday morning while Brady leads worship. This includes sound, lights, cameras, multi-media, and most especially all the online streaming demands. He has taken a ton of stress off Brady on Sunday mornings so that he can focus on leading our worship during our Gathering time.
- **Kids:** It's been a fun season to see how God is at work in this ministry! Of course, the most important is what God is doing through His word and relationships. But it's also encouraging to know that we have 50 kids under 3 years old! The Kids Ministry is growing! As you can imagine, there is a ton of work to be done in this arena. Recently, **Jordan Nepstad** was added part-time as the **Kids Ministry Administrator**. Her role will include the overall organization & communication. Also, **Haley Heinen** was added part-time as the **Kids Ministry Assistant**. She will support both Veronica and Jordan, working primarily with the safety systems and structures. With God's word at the center, great volunteers, and the new structures in place, it's going to be so fun to see how God continues to work.

- **Missions:** If you know **Nikki Dunham** you know that missions has always been her primary passion in life. After many interviews, and Ken and the elders working hard to discern God's leading, she clearly was the best candidate for the new **Local & Global Missions Director**. As a precaution we do have a Conflict of Interests plan in place, should we need it, but we feel this is God's leading. She will continue to work part-time. Globally it will include connecting with our missionary partners and building out short-term missions' trips. Locally it will include all local partnerships, working primarily with Ellen Hopkins and the Community Gardens. It will be neat to see her living out her talents and passions as she helps us engage the world.
- **Connections & Care:** With Nikki stepping into a new role, **Mariah Grigorenko** was hired as the **Connections & Care Administrator**. She brings lots of administrative and relational gifts to the role, especially in hospitality. We are excited to have her as a new part of the team!

We also have a contract with **Daryl Heinen** to do IT work as needed. By God's grace, we've been able to do all the above with fiscal responsibility and stewardship (we are still under our budget). Rest assured that all our other ministries are doing well. Ministry is always messy, but I'm so thankful to have a team who is excited to serve the church.

I wanted to extend a special thank you to all of you who showed up to help set up and clean after Pastor Thomas' funeral. It was both a mark of our love for Pastor Thomas, as well as our church's value of Selfless Service. Thank you!

A few things coming up you don't want to miss:

- **Sunday, Sept. 1st** (Labor Day weekend) We'll have a special communion Sunday revolving around an invitation to prayer & fasting
- **Sunday, Sept. 8th** (Fall Kickoff) We'll have a great kick off Sunday, followed by a meal together.

In all these things, we give God all the glory.

Pastor Seth