



CHRIST COVENANT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ANNUAL REPORT
TWENTY-TWENTY TWO

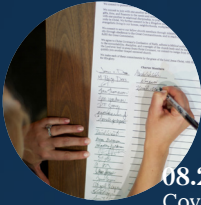




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HISTORY



08.27.17
Covenant
Sunday



09.17.17
Baptism
Sunday



11.03.17
First Sunday in
the Dees' House



12.08.19
First Advent
Service



06.02.19
Summer Nights at
Covenant Presbyterian

2020



01.30.20
Spotted Cow



10.26.21
Lydian
Event



10.18.21
First Music
Video 221
Sessions



09.03.21
Catechism
Released

2022



04.20.22
Baptisms on
Easter Sunday



06.25.22
Mission
Trip

2019



2018



01.28.18
Volunteer
Huddle



04.23.18
Covenant
Kids



10.17.18
Leadership
Vision Retreat



09.18.18
Members
Meeting



05.10.20
Live streaming
from the Collective



07.19.20
Worship service
at the Cochise Club



08.16.20
Covenant Kids
at the Foundry



03.18.21
Vision Dinners in
Unfinished 221

2021



08.16.20
The Foundry



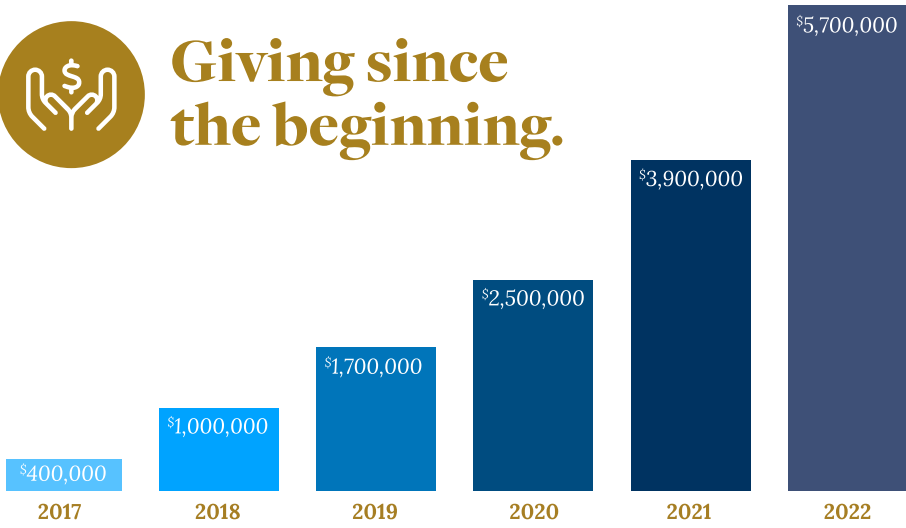
08.11.22
First Worship
Night



10.16.22
First Worship
Service in 221



Giving since the beginning.



Missions Trips

2017	0
2018	2
2019	1
2020	0
2021	1
2022	5



People Counseled

2019	20
2020	32
2021	60
2022	84



Staff Members

2017	5
2018	6
2019	9
2020	15
2021	22
2022	29



Serve Commitments

2020	180
2021	456
2022	797



5 Trailers purchased to do ministry since 2017

Groups



Cohorts







What's Next? | 221 Armour: The Collective

First Worship Service
October 16th, 2022



Entrances from both
Ottley Dr & Armour Dr



3 Conference Classrooms



Counseling Center



850 Seat Auditorium



8 Kids Classrooms

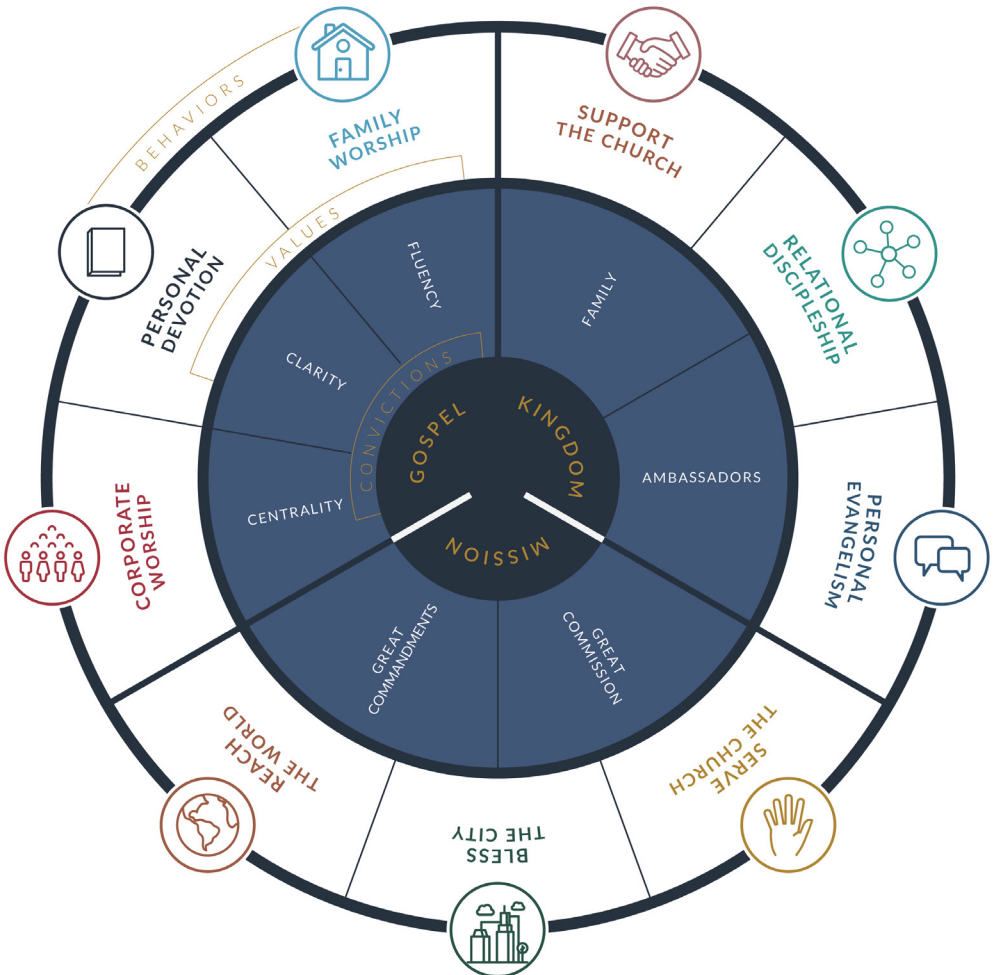


Administrative Offices

Gospel, Kingdom, Mission Vision

God has been so kind to Christ Covenant in our first five years. In September 2017, a handful of us gathered to start a church with a desire to be faithful followers of Jesus by committing to know his Gospel, love his Kingdom, and live his Mission. As of September 2022, our church family has over 1,000 members, and we look forward to the vision God has for the next two years.

These new initiatives in no way change the core of who we are as a church. We are committed to stay faithful to our three core convictions, our seven values, and our nine behaviors of faithful Christian living. These new initiatives only seek to further strengthen what God has established in our church.







Know the Gospel

The gospel changes everything. As we grow in knowledge of the person and work of Jesus, it will impact our worship services, community groups, counseling ministry and everything we do.

- **Covenant Institute:** One excellent way our church family can grow in knowledge of the gospel is through our Covenant Institute. We are already scheduling courses through the end of 2023.
- **Pacto de Cristo:** Begin a Spanish-speaking worship service with shared resources of Covenant Kids and discipleship opportunities.

Love the Kingdom

Jesus calls us to be part of a kingdom family that gathers well and scatters well.

- **Sewing Machine Building:** We are grateful for the opportunity the Lord has provided to pursue purchasing the Sewing Machine building (228 Ottley Drive), which will help to provide the additional space we need.
- **Collective Strategy:** Looking forward, we hope to have different Collective sites throughout the city of Atlanta with the possibility of a first additional site in the Smyrna/Vinings area.
- **Church Expansion Strategy:** One growth strategy that our elders are exploring is a site strategy. This would allow us to continue to grow and to better serve different communities in our city.

Live the Mission

Christ Covenant is committed to the mission of God, both locally and globally.

- **Ministry Apprenticeship Program:** Each year Christ Covenant has a goal to train men and women for gospel ministry.
- **Church Planting Strategy:** We desire to plant churches in the Atlanta area, in other strategic cities in North America and in global cities around the world.
- **A Deeper Commitment to Our City:** We are already addressing several needs in our city through partners such as Read Together ATL and our refugee ministry in Clarkston. We will be increasing opportunities to meet more needs by identifying and engaging with these three local needs: refugee care, community flourishing, and family restoration.



How to Engage

Our goal here is not to do new things for the sake of new things, but to continue to live out the things we have been doing in a better, more complete, and more faithful way. All of the members of Christ Covenant have committed to know the Gospel, love the Kingdom, and live the Mission, and that is demonstrated through our nine covenant commitments. As we look forward, it is important that we stay committed to the Covenant Commitments that have helped to shape our church. Our goal with these Commitments has always been to grow in Christlikeness, so as we look to the future, let's take some time to recommit.

Covenant Commitments

Now that you understand what it means to be a part of Christ Covenant, you can choose to pursue membership upon the following:

- *Meeting one-on-one with one of our current members*
- *Turning in your Membership Form and Testimony*
- *Agreement with the following covenant commitments*

Church Family

- I agree with Christ Covenant's Confession of Faith
- I commit to the accountability of the church body.
- I commit to attend quarterly Members Meetings.

Gospel

Corporate Worship

- I commit to attend corporate worship services regularly.

Family Worship

- I commit to gather for Bible study and prayer with the people in your home.

Personal Devotion

- I commit to set aside time for a regular rhythm of Bible reading and prayer.



Kingdom

Support the Church

- I commit to support the needs and mission of the church by faithfully giving back to the Lord.

Relational Discipleship

- I commit to seek relational discipleship by visiting and joining one of Christ Covenant's community groups.

Personal Evangelism

- I commit to pray and pursue gospel conversations with unbelievers for the sake of Kingdom advancement.

Mission

Serve the Church

- I commit to utilize the gifts the Lord has given to make disciples within our faith family through service.

Bless the City

- I commit to engage with local ministries to love neighbors well.

Reach the World

- I commit to engage in praying for, giving to, and going with our mission partners all over the world.







Matt & Nicole Nolan on Covenant Kids & Mission Trips

Matt and Nicole, tell us about your first date. When was it and where did you go?

Our first date was in 2010 at Tallulah Gorge. It was our first time meeting in person. We'd only ever messaged each other on Facebook. We had a nice hike down into the gorge. Matt wanted to break away from the crowd of people so that we could talk more easily, and we found a great spot past all the No Trespassing signs to sit, watch the waterfall, and get to know one another. A park ranger walked up, and asked to see our passes, which Matt had. I did not. I was then given a \$165 no trespassing ticket and we were asked to leave the park. Needless to say, the date came to a pretty abrupt end. Five years later, we ran into each other at a young adults event at church. Six months later, we were engaged.

Matt, what year did you come on staff at Christ Covenant, and what's been a highlight of serving at the church?

Nicole and I felt a call to join Christ Covenant back in 2016. I started serving in Covenant Kids as one of my first serve teams. As the ministry grew, I started part-time in 2018 before coming on staff full-time in 2019. A highlight has been seeing kids grow in their faith over time. I remember kids who were babies who are now starting to understand the gospel. Every three years, we work our way completely through the entire Bible. There are kids in Covenant Kids who are now well into their second round through the Bible. God is working in their hearts, and His Word is making them 'wise unto salvation' as 2nd Timothy 3 says. We've seen kids make professions of faith, get baptized, and join the

church. That's always such an incredible highlight!

You guys were able to go on a mission trip to Italy in July 2022 and take Christ Covenant Kids Camp to the kids where you served. Where were you exactly?

Northern Italy, in a town called Conegliano, and a town called Sacile. The church where we served was located in Sacile. The church had transformed their offices into bunks for Ukrainian refugees and didn't have the bandwidth to put on a VBS kids camp. Looking back, the way that the pandemic made us alter how we do kids camp really helped prepare us for putting on a camp halfway across the world.

Were all the kids Italian or from different countries?

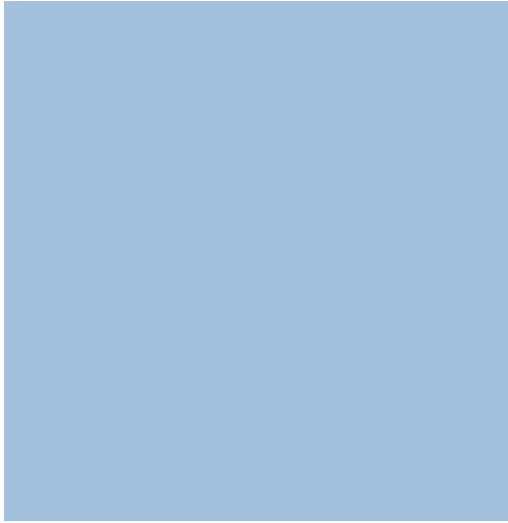
Most were Italian, but some were Americans from the local air force base. We also had a special group of Ukrainian refugee kids who had fled the war.

How were you able to communicate with the non-English speakers?

Translators helped tremendously, but everyone was eager to practice their English. Pastor Rob's daughter, who is a believer, helped us translate everything into Italian. And one of the Ukrainian moms, Tanya, who was not a believer, helped translate everything into Russian. She was literally sharing the gospel multiple times a day in her native tongue.

What is something you saw the Lord do on that trip?

We saw the local church working powerfully. Pastor Rob told us stories of refugee kids up late reading a Bible for the first time by flashlight so they could know God. One evening, the Ukrainian translator sat at the foot of the cross in their sanctuary crying and praying. After the first day of camp, the kids were



having so much fun, they went and told their friends, and a bunch of new kids came the second day and stayed for the rest of the week. Two were Muslim boys. Many of them asked Pastor Rob why the camp only lasted five days and said they wished it lasted two months.

How has that trip impacted your family and/or your ministry back here in Atlanta?

We saw the way the local churches there mobilized to meet the needs of the local

community. One of the lay pastors there was a welder and converted a trailer into a mobile welding lab. He was teaching refugees and the poor in the community how to weld, and they were getting jobs in the local factories. He'd certified something like 68 people already. It inspired us to use the skills God has given us to get outside of our busy Atlanta schedule and do things that will make a positive impact in the community for the gospel.

Terence White & Landon Pangburn on Discipleship

Terence, Landon, so you guys grew up close to each other. Tell us what that looked like.

Landon: Our family moved to Atlanta in the Fall of 1997. We had been here for less than a year. One day I walked outside and saw a kid I had never seen before in the driveway across the street. I walked over to say hey and found him playing Pokemon on his Gameboy. I invited him over and the rest is history! Terence became best friends with my brother, Preston, who is also two years younger than me, and he became like my second brother. Growing up, Terence was at our house every single day after school and joined us everywhere we went, to the point that people would often ask if our family had adopted another child. Eventually, we went off to the same college where Terence and Preston were roommates in the same neighborhood as me. In 2018, Preston got married with me as his best man and Terence as one of his groomsmen. And now, as of last year, Terence and I belong to the same church family at Christ Covenant!

Tell us one funny or embarrassing thing about each other that happened while growing up together.

Landon: In hindsight, I am pretty embarrassed by the number of hours and all nighters that we spent playing Halo together. If I have to call Terence out for something it would probably be his lack of breakaway speed in little league football. However, he would tell you that speed wasn't the problem! It was endurance!

Terence: One thing that was certainly not funny for Landon was we were always on the same teams playing sports as kids in the neighborhood. Unfortunately for him, I wasn't always the most reliable teammate. Nevertheless, it was small moments like that I can still point to today to show our bond as friends and how long our friendship has lasted.

What brought each of you to Christ Covenant?

Landon: I was attending and serving at another church for a long time, but decided to visit Christ Covenant one day with my sister and brother-in-law. I was immediately drawn in by the community and decided to keep coming back. I fell in love with Christ Covenant's emphasis on relational discipleship, mission to the city/ world, and the stress placed on being a member of a covenant church body. I became a member in June of 2021.

Terence: In 2019, I had found myself going through a period where I lacked direction. I was distant from my faith that had been a foundation in my life and was embarrassed with how I was handling myself. I had ultimately reached a breaking point when I sat down next to Landon on a bus ride home from the UGA/Notre Dame game in Athens, and told him what I had been going through. Landon was loving and supportive the whole time I spoke. He suggested that I join him at church, and I started going with him regularly until the pandemic shut things down. As we were coming out of that, Landon started going to Christ Covenant. I had been to a couple other churches, but had not found a place to call home yet. After the service, I saw what brought Landon there. Coming from a smaller church when I was growing up, I was drawn by the community amongst the members and the love for Jesus. It was then I decided to keep attending Christ Covenant. As each Sunday passed, I felt my faith grow. It led me to being baptized in July and becoming a member in September.

Landon, you started a community group of guys. How did that come together?

Landon: When I joined Christ Covenant, I had breakfast with Barrett one morning to get to know him and to let him know that I desired to lead a group of young adult men. I was new to the church and didn't have any co-leaders in mind, but Barrett had just gotten breakfast with another guy who was in the same position. Barrett connected me with the other guy, John Vogt, and we started to study Deuteronomy with a group of six men. By the time we finished Deuteronomy we were up to over 20 guys, so we have multiplied into three groups now!



Terence, you started coming to Christ Covenant and got engaged with Landon's group. How was it getting plugged into a group with your lifelong friend?

Terence: It was a really exciting experience! I had never been a part of a small group but I knew it was something that I wanted to be a part of to further my faith. At the beginning, it was a new experience for me and somewhat of a nerve-racking one, but having the encouragement and support of Landon not only being a participant, but leading the group, really made it easier for me.

Landon, what was it like watching Terence's baptism a few months ago?

Landon: Having been there when Terence was at his point of greatest conviction, watching the Lord's sanctifying work in his life, and then seeing him get baptized has been such a gift to me in many ways. I'm just thankful to have had a front row seat to watch God's grace, faithfulness, and redemptive love so tangibly and powerfully on display.

And what's been your experience with leading a group of young men?

Leading our group for the past year has been one of the most fun and challenging parts of my time at Christ Covenant. We have dug into Scripture together, and have had to wrestle with some very difficult parts of it in order to better understand the nature of

God. We have been able to rejoice and mourn with each other through different seasons of life. We have been steadfast in prayer for one another. And I've been able to see people find their people as they are brought into the community of faith.

Of course, it is not all perfect. As human beings we are sinful, we are inconsistent, and we don't always understand what the Lord is trying to say to us in His word. But I think all of these things are exactly why a group is so important. We get the opportunity to encourage and sharpen one another as we strive to love and serve the Lord. In a lot of ways, I think our group has, for me, been a small window into what the Lord envisioned when he designed the Church.

Terence, how have you grown in your walk with the Lord since you've been going to Landon and John's community group?

Terence: I'm so blessed to be a part of their community group and to be surrounded by a group of men who love the Lord and have the desire and knowledge to teach the Word. One of the ways I've grown is simply putting trust in the Lord. There was a period of my life when I would say that sin was ultimately driven by lack of trust. It was the assumption that I knew what was best for me, and that evolved into selfish behavior. I have also grown by spending more time with the Lord. After each meeting, I feel an encouragement to learn more and seek the teachings of Jesus.

Hunter & Sara Beth Bryant on Church Family

Hunter and Sara Beth, tell me when you guys joined Christ Covenant.

Hunter: Sara Beth and I were engaged but long distance at the time. She was in town, and we visited Christ Covenant at Sutton, and right away it was different. Walking in, we immediately felt connected.

Sara Beth: We also felt very seen. We had a lot of people draw us in. Josh Youssef preached, and we were blown away. Some people were apologizing because Jason wasn't preaching that week, but we were like, "That was amazing. Does it get better than this?" The preaching has always been such a blessing at Christ Covenant.

Hunter: Joining was a no-brainer. People were going out of their way to make us feel at home. Worshiping was so unique, and the teaching was so gospel-centered.

What is one thing that you have appreciated about Christ Covenant since becoming a member?

Sara Beth: For me, I don't think I've ever been discipled so well. I've grown so much in my faith since being at Christ Covenant. You can take advantage of as much or as little as you want. I've never had such accountability like I have with our community group.

Hunter: Our discipleship has become interwoven into our marriage and has made such a difference. I've also had more personal application of the gospel in my life during Sunday morning teaching than anywhere else we've been.

Now, you guys are serving the church in multiple ways, right? What ways do you serve?

Hunter: We both serve with Students. It's so great. We get so excited for Sunday nights. We enjoy our students so much. You know, I

thought I was there to minister to them, but they often minister to me. Some of them are going through a time of life that I was in just 10 years ago. I get to walk alongside these guys that have similar struggles that I had, and pour into their lives.

Sara Beth: Besides our community group, we have a whole other layer of community with the other Student leaders. There's a group of us that have been doing it now for two years, and we love serving alongside them.

Hunter: I've also been on Hands Team. It's great to sweat alongside other guys. It's made me appreciate our staff because monthly I come to help, but staff are there every week. On Hands Team we got a peek behind the curtain to see how Sundays come together each week.

I understand that in the last 12 months you have been through some extremely difficult times. As you feel comfortable, can you explain some of the things that have happened?

Sara Beth: Two big things. Spring of 2021, our apartment burned down. We had been married for 9 months at the time. It was a shock and hard to deal with. We only lost material things, but we had to buy all our clothes again and everything else. The second thing was that this February my dad passed away. He passed really, really suddenly and unexpectedly, and this was just before our second anniversary. This continues to be difficult, and we're still grieving. I have a little sister who was living in France at the time, and a little brother who was living at home. It was such a difficult time. He was 62, very busy and loved the Lord. Hunter also had a special relationship with him as a son-in-law. Hunter is not just sad for me, but is also grieving with me.

Hunter: Nothing really prepares you for this. There's a reason you marry a woman of amazing character like I did. Sara Beth has handled it all so well.

Sara Beth: We have learned to have more patience and compassion for each other, because little annoyances or whatever



don't seem as big when you put them in perspective of these other things. Hunter: Our marriage has grown during this time. The Lord has worked through these difficult times so mercifully. Jason has preached on the Lord drawing near to the broken hearted, and we've felt that.

In what ways have you experienced the Christ Covenant family gather around you during these really tough times?

Hunter: Our community was already there. Our community was built during the sweet and easy times. Our apartment burned down at 6a.m. on a Friday morning. That night we were at a student leader hangout at the Thompson's house. Everyone was amazed we were there, but they bought us gift cards to different places, which was so thoughtful. But honestly, we just needed to be around our community, and they just loved us. Deacons also reached out after the fire and offered help. People were cleaning our closets for us. People just took time to let us cry. Elders that I had never met were reaching out to us. We were constantly prayed for, and we felt it.


Sara Beth: People at Christ Covenant were there when we needed them. Chip and Brooke Johnson brought a basket full of Door Dash, Delta and gas gift cards from our community groups so that we could travel to visit my mom in Orlando. One

friend bought us a blanket. Another friend bought me a pair of pajamas. It was so thoughtful. They are such good friends.


One more question: what's one thing you would tell a newer member or a member who hasn't gotten plugged in much yet?

Sara Beth: The church needs its people to serve in order for it to function, but really, you need the church. I need it. I need to be plugged in to be known, which is so helpful during those really dark times. I also need it to be sharpened and challenged in my faith. I've never regretted a minute that I've put into serving at our church. It puts you in a more vulnerable position, but we need to be known by each other.

Hunter: A lot of my friends are probably tired of hearing about Christ Covenant, because our lives have been changed by this church. We don't look back and think, "What a terrible two years." We think, "What a sweet two years of our lives, where we've faced difficult things, but relationships have just blossomed." We've grown close to the Lord and more passionate about serving the church and the church's mission of reaching the city. When you buy in, your life really does change. This church is the greatest thing that has happened to our marriage. Don't come on Sundays and leave and go about the rest of your life. Allow this church to become an integral part of your life.



**The Lord has done
so much in these
last five years. It's
sometimes hard
to fathom how far
he has brought
us, but there is so
much ahead.**



**Our love for God, his
word, and his gospel
will guide us, and our
love for one another will
sustain us as we seek to
be faithful to pursue the
glory and mission of the
Lord Jesus Christ.**



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