

NEWSLETTER

The Boardwalk Chapel

Wildwood, NJ



UPDATES

And just like that, the season of ministry is officially over! Is it just us or did it fly by? This summer was an answer to prayer and a blessing from the Lord. We had 39 people serve on our staff, with only a few returners from last year, and many new to the Chapel as a whole. A great amount of our staff also came from church groups for our end of summer staff, hungry for another opportunity for evangelism. Each week of the summer was filled with a church group eager to learn about evangelism and desiring to serve the Lord. Our training weeks were full with people coming from all around, wanting to grow in their knowledge of the Lord and practice evangelism. People on the Boardwalk engaged in conversations with our staff, many taking Bibles and calling on the name of the Lord. The staff were eager to serve,



spending hours in prayer seeking the Lord and prioritizing evangelism. This year was marked with a different atmosphere - evident to all who stopped by. Never have we had so many people wanting to return next year and join staff for the first time. Praise God! We are excited to see how many will return for summer 2022, and how many church groups will send their youth to serve for the summer, or for a week as a missions trip. The Lord has moved so mightily and done so many great things, all glory to him! We hope that this final summer newsletter is an encouragement to you all. Again, thank you for your support and your prayers. We love you all so dearly.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are already beginning to plan ahead for summer 2022, before we know it, it will be here! As you pray for us, consider praying about coming to the Chapel next year, whether it is on staff full time or for a few weeks, with a church group, or for a conference/training week! Some of our opportunities are listed below. If you want to come, fill out an application/registration form on our website or contact boardwalkchapel@gmail.com.

TRAINING WEEKS/CONFERENCES

We are still figuring out dates for these and how many we want to hold in the beginning of the summer, but save Memorial Day weekend and the first few weeks of June for now - we will be in touch!

CHURCH GROUPS

All of our church group weeks from Saturday - Saturday, (except for July 2 - 9) starting June 18 until August 27, are open! Sign your group up today!



STAFF

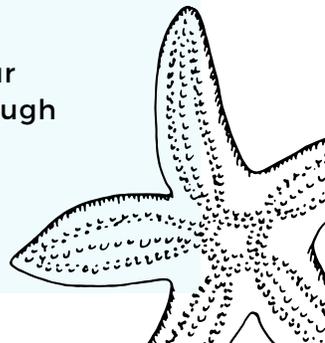
All of our volunteer staff positions are open, and our application will open up on November 1st. As for our paid positions and internships, we are waiting to see who is returning - stay tuned to see what may open up!

MERCH

Our on demand merch store now has hoodies, teeshirts, and long sleeves with various colors with designs from the past four years. Do you have a favorite logo? Check out the store and search through the various options we have, if you see something you want but we don't have it, let us know! We'll see if we can design it.

You can help support us and our mission by ordering a shirt through the link below!

<https://chapel-merch.creator-spring.com/>



PRAISE REPORT

During the summer, we received this email from a mother and father. At times our work can be discouraging as we often do not see immediate results. But we can trust that the Lord will carry out His good and perfect will, and that He does use our conversations, tracts, and programs, to draw His people to Himself. Our Lord is faithful!

"About a year ago our son was vacationing in Wildwood. His girlfriend was in a store shopping and he was standing outside in the vicinity of the store and the Chapel. A gentleman from the Chapel started a conversation with him and began to witness. That gentleman planted a seed that has flourished and our son told us recently he was saved. We have tried for years to witness to him. My son doesn't remember his name but that gentleman got through to him! Praise Jesus! May God Bless that gentleman and the Boardwalk Chapel!"



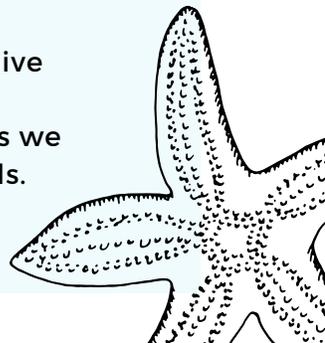
A NEW LOCATION

We have both sad, yet exciting news for you all. Lord willing, by the end of September, the Dunn House will be sold.

The Lord has provided for us a "compound" where we can put everyone in one geographical location. Rather than having the director's home be off the island in a separate town, everything will be together. We now have two dorms for the staff, a director's apartment, and room for parking all next to each other.

Our new compound will also be in a better location. Not only will it be safer (if you ever stayed in the old Dunn House you know what we are talking about), there will be better security with everything being together, and we will be much closer to the boardwalk.

As things move along we will give you more details! This is quite exciting so please pray for us as we continue to work out the details.



EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

TONY PHELPS

My week at the evangelism conference was challenging, edifying, and equipping. "Life-changing" is an overused expression these days - but I can't think of a better way to put it.

An unexpected blessing for me was the time we spent together in small group prayer - worshipping our glorious God and praying for the salvation of His people in sweet communion with Him and one another. Chris did an excellent job as an instructor - and together with the BWC staff, he modeled a heart for the lost in evangelism.

Throughout the week, I felt like the Lord was "rearranging furniture" in my mind and my heart, challenging my assumptions, showing me HIS heart for the lost. I can't recommend the evangelism conference highly enough - to the praise of the glory of God's saving grace. As God wills, I will be back, and I hope to bring others along with me!

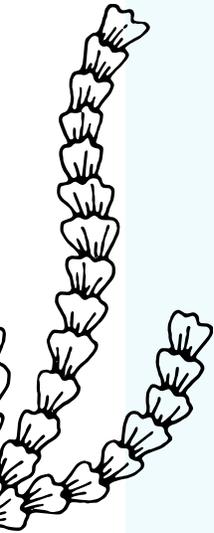
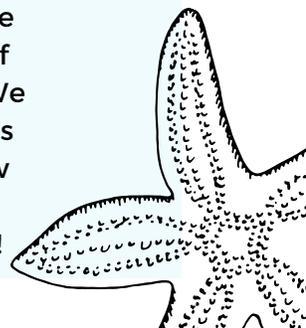


CHRIS BYRD

The Lord greatly blessed this year's second annual Evangelism Conference. We had close to 20 people in attendance, including pastors, deacons, and lay evangelists.

The primary goal of the conference was to equip and strengthen pastors and others in leading and building a culture of evangelism in the church. Through 20+ hours of classroom teaching and 10 hours of actual evangelism, along with fellowship times of extended prayer, those who came were challenged and encouraged not only in their own personal evangelism, but inspired with a larger and clearer vision for leading their own churches to become more evangelistic.

Those who attended said they greatly helped by the teaching, strengthened by the times of prayer, and greatly encouraged by seeing what appeared to be the genuine work of the Spirit in the hearts of some of those we evangelized. We are looking forward to next year's conference and watching it grow and be used by the Lord to strengthen and build his church!



STAFF TESTIMONY

TOM

One night during the summer, I was out evangelizing with a team and held up the "Free Test" sign, patiently waiting for the Lord to bring us conversations. What He brought to my group was absolutely jaw dropping.

When we do sign evangelism, we engage with people on the boardwalk and ask if they want to take the test and find out if they are going to heaven. Surprisingly this time was different, two young girls walked up to me and began our conversation by saying "I hope this isn't rude, but could you, like, tell me how to get to heaven? Both of my parents are atheists and I really want to know." I told them, "Are you kidding? Rude? You're an answer to prayer!" Prior to them walking up, I had been praying for people to respond like they did to Peter's sermon asking, 'What must I do to be saved?' (Acts 2).

I handed her a Bible and I had her read John 3:15-21 and Romans 3:10-18, she quickly understood that man hates God and all humanity has rebelled and sinned against God. The Lord was illuminating the Word to her! As we continued to read more of the Bible, I saw a broken and contrite spirit in her. I walked through humanity's 3 problems and explained how our lives are an abomination unto the LORD and that we must be crucified with Christ and be made a new creation.

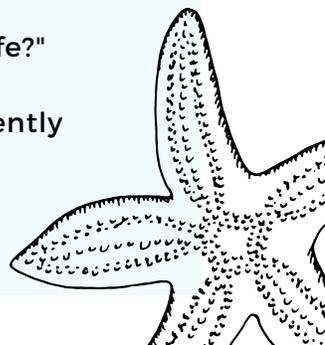
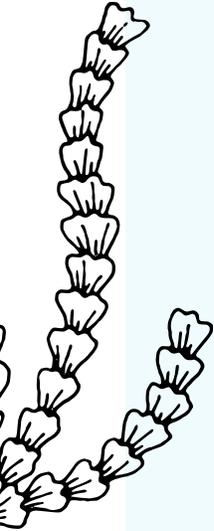
After hearing all of this, she really understood it and told me, "I want this... I need this." When I asked her if she wanted a Bible, she paused.



Her parents would be furious if they even saw a pamphlet about Christianity in their home. I dug into the topic of repentance and following Christ, even if that meant that her parents forsake her. I took her to Luke 14:26 and Psalm 27:10, asking if she would still embrace Christ even if her parents would hate her. She told me yes, and asked me to lead her in prayer. After we prayed together, I shared how she was a hopeful convert, and warned her that if she did not bear fruit consistent with repentance, she was still-born and needed to repent and be born again.

After I read her Romans 5:1 and Romans 8:1, she told me, "I feel different, I feel at ease." "That is the peace of God, knowing that you have trusted Christ to take away your sins," I replied. I didn't have an extra Bible to give her, before I handed her mine and I asked her several questions: Will you love the Word? Will you read it every day? Will you tell others about Jesus? She cheerfully and happily said "Yes." I then asked her "Will you follow Jesus, even if it cost you your life?" She said "I desire to get to that place where I can more confidently say yes than I already can right now."

Praise the Lord.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

CHRIS BYRD

In a few words, this year was a great summer. We had the largest summer staff that the Boardwalk Chapel has ever had, with more new people coming than ever before. We saw real unity established among the staff over the mission to evangelize, bringing to fruition the heart of the ministry.

This summer was my first in the role of associate director (director of evangelism). It was a joy to be able to work alongside Jim, and I learned much through serving in this position. With all that is done at the Chapel, and all the potential for ministry, the multi-director structure is definitely helpful, and I can't wait to see how we can continue to build on this.

Over the course of this summer, nearly 30,000 gospel tracts were handed out; several thousand people had the Gospel personally shared with them; nearly 800 people received Bibles or Gospels of John; and over 1,000 people heard the Gospel being preached from the Chapel or in the open air. And there seemed to be more responsiveness among the people we witnessed to than previous summers. There is no doubt in my mind that there are people who were converted on the Boardwalk this summer.

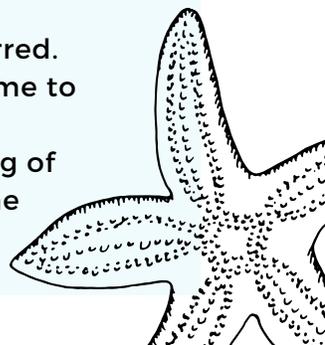
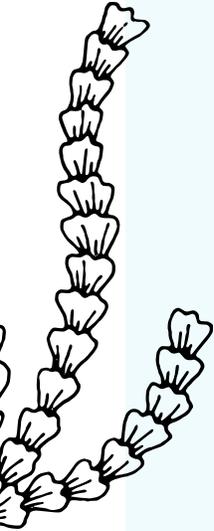
Throughout the summer, we had youth on staff and on church groups testify that they grew tremendously in their own faith through their experience at the Boardwalk



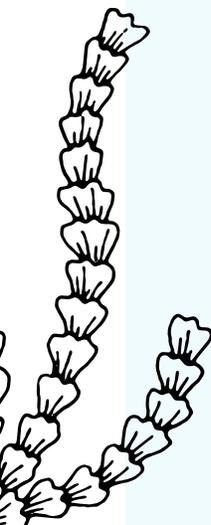
they came to a saving faith. This is one of the most beautiful aspects of the Chapel.

The Holy Spirit is at work not only in the hearts of those hearing the gospel on the boardwalk, but in those on our staff and in the church groups. They are being taught the gospel and how to evangelize, but as they are hearing it themselves--and, at times, even as it is coming from their own lips--the Lord changes their hearts!

Several of the pastors who brought church groups told me that while they initially came thinking they were simply bringing their kids to help with some evangelism, they discovered that the week was spiritually challenging and transformative for both the youth and the leaders. And our 4 conferences were well-attended, and we received an overwhelming response from those came, who said they were tremendously encouraged, equipped, and stirred. More and more people who came to the Chapel left saying "making disciples is central to the calling of my life as a Christian." Praise the Lord!



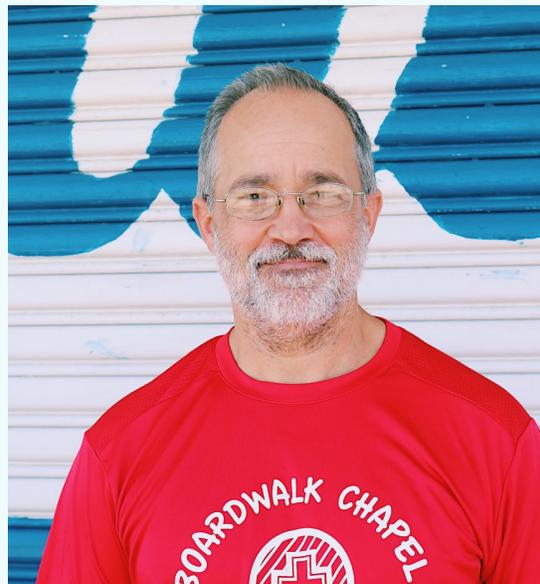
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Summer 2021 was a very good summer. This summer was marked with joy, there was so much excitement radiating from the church groups, the staff, and conference attendees around evangelizing. Everyone who came to the Chapel really seemed to enjoy their time and we are grateful for that.

It was quite evident that the Lord not only grew our ministry numerically, but geographically. We had staff and church groups coming from all around the country, some joined us from as far as Hawaii. The Lord is also growing us in terms of opportunities, as we look towards next year there are a lot of options for us to pursue, so the challenge now is to pick a few and put some on the back burner.

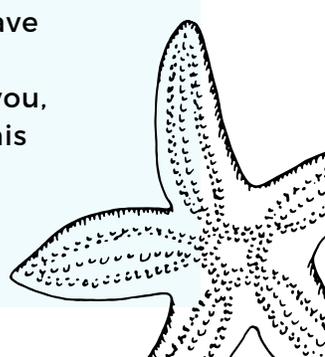
In terms of growing opportunities, one of my favorite aspects of the summer was seeing how the Lord opened up doors to minister to different kinds of people. We are unable to change the location in which we serve, however, the Lord changes who we can reach. This summer, we did a lot of LGBTQ ministry. Many young females who identified as lesbian or transgender sought us out - whether going up to sign evangelists, talking to people who handed out tracts, or coming into the Chapel, they wanted to have a conversation with us. Before, the Lord opened up doors to minister to the internationals, and now we see Him bringing a different group before us, praying for us and for these people.



I am beyond thankful for how the Lord has provided for us. These past two summers have definitely been challenging; last summer was the COVID summer, but in the Lord's good providence he kept us healthy. This summer, many of us got sick but the Lord provided and we were able to continue with the ministry. Al Baker and Dr. K were unable to come to a few of our events, but the conferences were still fruitful. With my heart issues, my back, and getting sick with COVID, the Lord still provided through it all and allowed us to have a wonderful summer.

I want to end by extending my thanks to the Lord, the presbytery, our supporting churches, the staff, and church groups. Thank you to Rich Seither who has been a huge help to us throughout the years. Thank you to Chris, Emily, and Anastasia, this was your first year stepping into your new roles and you did a wonderful job, you have exceeded my expectations. I couldn't do this without all of you, and I am thankful I get to do this ministry alongside you all.

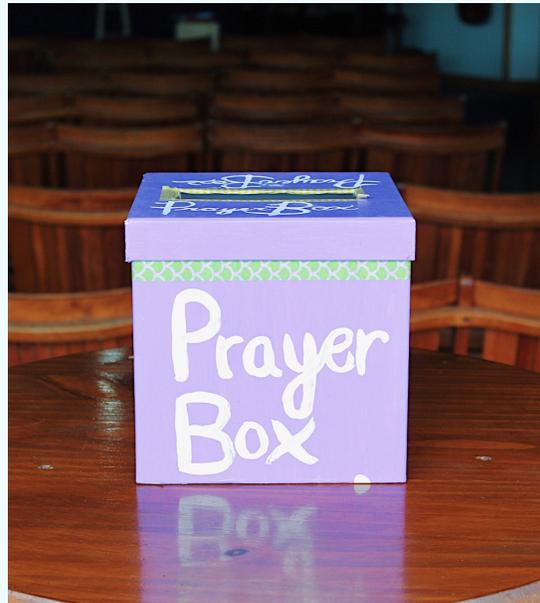
Peace,
Jim.



PRAYER REQUESTS

By God's grace, we can all attest to the power of prayer. It is evident how the Lord uses pray to sanctify his people and carry out his will.

We wanted to share a prayer request that was put into our prayer box by someone who spent time at the Chapel. They said "I'd like to pray about my relationship with God. Before this missions trip I was dead in my sins, I thought I knew enough about God and didn't pursue him at all." They then listed some of the sins they felt convicted of that we won't mention for privacy. "During this missions trip I've realized the weight of my sins. Please pray that when I get back I wont to turn back to my sins, repent, spread the gospel to my friends, and give my whole life to God."



We have received many prayer requests from people off the boardwalk, and we have prayed over these throughout the summer, praise the Lord that people are seeking prayer and we get to pray over them! This specific request we wanted to share, so that you can see the hand of the Lord working in the hearts of those who come to the Chapel, and so that you would pray for this person.

We also listed some prayer requests that you can pray through during these fall and winter months. Thank you for your prayers and your support. May the Lord bless you all!

- The hopeful converts on the boardwalk, for the seeds to take root and grow.
- For those who heard the gospel in passing, that seeds would be planted and the Lord would bring them to salvation.
- Pastor Jim and Chris Byrd, for much needed rest after a full summer, wisdom as they continue to serve in their local contexts and prepare for next summer.
- For the staff and church groups that spent time at the Chapel growing in evangelism, prayer, and their love for the Lord. May they continue to grow and be passionate about sharing the gospel.
- The people that attending the training weeks and conferences.
- That those who learned about evangelism would apply what they were taught back at their home, that revival would be stirred in the local church, and sinners would call on the name of the Lord.
- Pray for those working throughout the year to prepare for summer 2022.
- For new church groups to spend a week serving with us, new staff to join us for the summer, and more attendees seeking to grow in evangelism at our conferences/training weeks.
- Pray that God would be glorified.

