



ARLINGTON
CHURCH OF GOD

2022 Annual Report



"A New Start"



Senior Pastor's Report Rev. Dr. Charles Myricks, Jr.

"A New Start"



God is good and active in the work and life of the Arlington Church of God. All praise to His Holy and Matchless Name. By God's grace, ACOG remained faithful to our **mission**, stayed true to our **budget**, and is positioned for dynamic **growth** in 2023.

Arlington is blessed to have **an exceptional staff, outstanding operations, and committed members** who seek to be pleasing to God in all we do. The love of Jesus compels us, and our **mission** is unchanged: **"To win the lost, mature the saved, and serve the world, to the glory of God."** Our motto is, **"Every member growing, serving and being cared for, by the body, for the community, to the glory of God."**

Through the dedication of many, ACOG produced **in-person and online worship services** every Sunday of 2022. I strived to preach biblically and expositively - preaching and teaching through the **Gospel of John**, and then beginning a journey through the **Gospel of Luke**. We were blessed by guest preachers, including our lay ministers, as well as by messages on **Mother's Day** and **Father's Day**, shared by non-ordained individuals in our congregation. And we captured the season of Advent in a 5-week series of messages highlighting: **Peace, Hope, Life, Love, and Light**.

ACOG's congregational life is organized into **Ministry Pathways**. These ministries and services offer opportunities for each person **to be served and to serve others**. The **Flock Care Ministries**, which I shepherd, and which **aim to minister to congregants at the individual level**, touched hundreds of lives in 2022. The **Diaconate Board, Visitation, Bereavement, Wellness, Scholarship, Graduation, Baby Dedication, Wedding, and Prayer Ministries** oversaw the ordinances of baptism and communion, visited the sick and shut-in, assisted with funerals, offered workshops and grief counseling, helped students afford college, helped families celebrate new life or marriage, and undergirded all ministries and concerns with prayer. We launched our **Card Ministry**, which lovingly sends an encouraging word to congregants in various situations. We also inaugurated an annual **Love and Light Memorial Service** to minister, during the Christmas season, to those who are experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one. All these ministries were rendered with a spirit of love and excellence.

In 2022, Arlington explored new ways to **reach and impact people** we might not otherwise access. These efforts included our month-long **Financial Literacy Workshop** in May that reached over 300 individuals across the country! Our **Celebrate Recovery Ministry** began to network and re-envision its scope resulting in considerable growth. ACOG helped take a stand against injustice by participating in the **NAACP March for Justice for Jayland Walker**. And we demonstrated our care for, solidarity with, and commitment to our zip code 44306 by partnering with **LOVE Akron in the 306 Initiative** to support children and foster care families and by participating in the **East Akron Labor Day Parade**. And ACOG extended Christ-like warmth and hospitality the evening we hosted the Grammy Award winning **Apollo's Fire Baroque Ensemble** as a community concert.

We held our first **New Year's Whiteout** - calling attention to the new life believers have in Jesus; our **Annual Church Picnic** at Bottler Park; and concluded the year with a special Watch Night video broadcast of **The Final 60 Minutes of 2022** - written and produced by Arlington members.

Throughout the year, the Holy Spirit guided ACOG in building community, vision for ministry, and spiritual growth in the youngest to the oldest.

We continue to grow our ministries to children and youth within our congregation and the surrounding neighborhood. **Vacation Bible School** began with a free indoor carnival that was extended to the entire neighborhood, and many neighborhood children attended the week of classes and fun. We hosted the **Akron Symphony Orchestra** in 2 special **Children's Concerts** to which we invited **ACA, IJPIC, Head Start and Robinson Elementary School** children and staff. We sought to build a sense of community among our youngest congregants through a **Children and Youth Movie Night**. And in December, we took a delegation of Arlington youth to the **National Inspirational Youth Convention** in Atlanta, GA.

Arlington is committed to **missions locally and abroad**. We hosted the **Kuyasa Children's Choir** from orphanages across South Africa, giving over \$5000 to support the work of **Horizon International**. In addition, we continue to directly support our missionaries **Steve and Peggy Beverly** who serve in Sri Lanka. We also raised a special offering of \$6300 for our churches doing ministry in **Ukraine**. We continue to generously support our international, national, state and local ministries of the **Church of God**.

The generosity of our congregation enables us to underwrite and support **Arlington Christian Academy** and **Irma Jones Preschool and Infant Center**. We provide both with residency and services at no charge. The combined value of our support of these ministries is in excess of \$300,000.00 annually.

We intentionally seek to develop new leaders for the Church. We held quarterly meetings with the 42 servant-leaders who lead our **Pathways Ministries** and concluded with a joint planning/implementation retreat that established the Church operating calendar for 2023. We also sponsored a delegation of assistant pastors and lay-ministers to a **Narrative Preaching Conference** in Orlando, Florida.

We are grateful for the outstanding **financial support** of Arlington and for our **finance team** who provide us with tremendous operational leadership and accountability.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this wonderful congregation. To God be the glory!
Keep going team!

Bro. Chuck



Pathway Ministries Shepherd for...

5. Flock Care

Shepherd: Pastor Chuck Myricks

Ministry Team Support Leader: Kristen Myricks

- Bereavement/Funerals (**Mary Parnell**)
- Card Ministry (**Faye Robinson**)
- Church Services (**Vondie Boykin**)
 - Baptisms (**Tony Johnson**)
 - Weddings (**Elizabeth Lee**)
 - Baby Blessings
- Diaconate Board (**Russel & Monique Toppin**)
- Graduation Ceremony (**Clarice Jones**)
- Pathways Advocate (**Felisha Gould**)
- Prayer Team (**Barbara Robinson**)
- Visitation (**Howard & Johnnette Curry**)
- Scholarships (**Courtney Jones-Hunter**)
- Fellowship Activities (**Vacant**)

2. Life Services

Shepherd: Pastor Chuck Myricks

Ministry Team Support Leader: Coleen Curry
(on demand, per individual participants)

- Celebrate Recovery (**Vondie Boykin**)
- Wellness Ministries (**Marilyn Mobley**)
 - Grief Recovery Services (**Marilyn Mobley**)

9. Life Training

Shepherd: Pastor Chuck Myricks

Ministry Team Support Leaders:

Tobin and Traci Buckner

- Financial Literacy (**Dr. Greg Hill**)



Executive Pastor’s Report Rev. Ronald Fowler, II

In many ways 2022 was not only a new year, but a **new start** for ministry at the Arlington Church of God. This was the first year since the **2020 pandemic** that **ministry was able to operate for a full calendar year**. The challenges of establishing an operating budget and supporting the facility usage of a full year’s worth of ministry was no small task, but God was in the midst of it all.

Our **facility was back in use** a minimum of 6 days a week, facilitating some aspect of ministry. In addition to ACOG ministry, we found new ways of collaborating with local and even international partners to reach the body of Christ and for community outreach.

A few highlights include hosting:

- Summit County Historical Society “Community Talk Back”
- Summit County Expungement Clinic
- The Summit County Gun Buy Back campaign
- ACOG Wellness Team Suicide Prevention Clinic
- Youth Excellence (YEPAW) Gala
- SAYM (South Akron Youth Mentorship)
- Host site for the 306 Initiative
- Ward 5 Voting location

Our facility was maintained by a **stellar maintenance crew**. Our **finance team** exercised characteristic meticulous care as they oversaw income and expenditures for the church and our schools, allowing the church to operate with income greater than expenses for the year ending in 2022. Members of our **technology crew** continue to get younger, as we offer trainings and learning opportunities for young persons who have an interest in serving in technological worship support.

All in all, while 2022 was a new launch, “eyes have not seen, nor ears heard” the wonderful things that are in store for ACOG in 2023.

Glory be to God.

Bro. Ron

Pathway Ministries Shepherd for...

7. Church Operations

Shepherd: Ron Fowler II

Ministry Team Support Leader: Kendall Riley
(ongoing, 10 – 50 participants)

- ACA (**Renee Benson-Ludle, Principal**)
- Communications (**Sheri Myricks**)
- Hospitality (**Natalie DeGraffenreid**)
- Irma Jones (**Kaneda Dixon, Executive Dir.**)
- Medical Board (**Diane Reed**)
- Special Event Security
- Tech & Media
- Van Ministry (**Lynda Kelly Johnson**)

8. Community Support

Shepherd: Ron Fowler II

Ministry Team Support Leader: Veronica Sims
(event driven)

- Community Partnerships (**Veronica Sims**)
- Missions (**Anne Lott**)
- S.A.Y.M. (**Michael Robinson**) *
- YEPAW (**Leslie Barnes**) *

* Denotes Partner Ministries



Praise & Worship Arts Report

Rev. Dr. Leslie Barnes

*So, whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God.*

I Corinthians 10:31

It has been a tremendous honor to work alongside the amazing people who serve at Arlington Church of God.

Our **Bible/Theology Classes** under the direction of Minister Cynthia Lee kept our hearts and minds tuned to the heart of God through our **Firm Foundation** and **Seasoned Saints** Sunday School classes taught by Linda Thompson and Howard Curry. A new class, **Men Strengthening Men**, was added under the leadership of Michael Robinson and Christopher Davis. The fellowship and strengthening through **Wednesday Night Prayer** sustained us throughout the year. Weekly we continued to be encouraged by the rich **testimonials** shared each Sunday morning.

Our **Core Groups** were our lifelines of ministry. **Kidz Landing** directed by Vicky Shaw, **Vacation Bible School** directed by Kim Joseph, **Young Adult/Youth Ministry** directed by Sheri Myricks and Camille Dickerson, **Women In Motion** directed by Cindy Nevels, **Men on the Move** directed by Quinton Upton, **Marriage Ministry** directed by Trudie and Lawrence Latson, **Seniors Ministry** directed by Reba Fowler and **Connection Groups** directed by Pastor Anthony Johnson faithfully kept us united and inspired.

Our **Discipleship and Evangelism** ministries were positioned to begin providing support to develop those who will be equipped to win lost souls for Christ and to disciple believers to make disciples who will make disciples.

Our **Church Ministries** consistently ushered us into the very presence of God. Bernadette Salley **Assistant Minister of Music, Youth and Young Adult Choir and Orchestra** directed by Minister Stephanie Childers-White, **Worship Band** directed by Albert Parker, Darrel Williams, serving as **All Praise & Worship Support, Ushers** directed by Joe Williams, **Greeters** directed by Cynda Williams, **Liturgical Dance** directed by Jennifer Gooding, **Sanctuary Décor** directed by Gwen Hawkins, **Choral Ministries** and **Worship Arts** directed by Leslie Barnes called the people of God to be true worshippers.

We are a blessed people. All praise to God for the mighty works He has performed.

Humbly submitted,
Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes

Pathway Shepherd for...

1. Bible/Theology Classes

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Team Support Leader: Cynthia Lee

- Bridges Connecting God's Word to Life (**Linda Thompson**)
- Seasoned Saints (**Howard & Johnnette Curry**)
- Men Strengthening Men (**Mike Robinson and Christopher Davis**)
- Bible Bootcamp Quarterly Intensives (**Various Presenters**)
- Foundation Classes (**Various Presenters**)

4. Groups

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Team Support Leader: Leah Shaw

CORE GROUPS

(On-going ministries; 20 – 50 participants)

- Children's Ministry (**Vicky Shaw**)
- Marriage Ministry (**Lawrence & Trudie Latson**)
- Men on the Move (**Quinton Upton**)
- Seniors Ministry (**Reba Fowler**)
- VBS (**Kim Joseph**)
- Women in Motion (**Cindy Nevels**)
- Youth Ministry, 12-18 years (**Jamahl & LaKeia Id-Deen**)
- Young Adult Ministry, 19-30 years (**Sheri Myricks and Camille Dickerson**)

CONNECTION GROUPS (**Tony Johnson**)

(Seasonal; 10-20 participants)

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (**Leslie Barnes**)

(Developing; 2 – 5 participants)

Ministry Team Support Leader:

Michelle Jones

6. Church Ministries

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Support Team Leader:

Bernice Lawshea

(ongoing, 10 – 50 participants)

- Choral Ministries (**Leslie Barnes**)
- Dance (**Jennifer Gooding**)
- Greeters (**Cynda Williams**)
- Instrumentalists (**Al Parker**)
- Sanctuary Décor (**Gwen Hawkins**)
- Ushers (**Joe Williams**)
- Worship Arts (**Leslie Barnes**)



Arlington Christian Academy

Renee Benson-Ludle, Principal



Arlington Christian Academy has continued to thrive and provide a superior education for each student. The curriculum consists of integrated Bible, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health and Math lessons. This year our students also participated in Physical Education, Art, and Technology classes. It has been our goal to give Arlington

Christian Academy students rich experiences by helping integrate grade-level content skills with Christ-like values.

Our staff is dedicated to creating a safe and productive learning community. This process begins with a blending of creativity, innovation, and rigor to produce high academic expectations while providing experiences that will continue to foster a love for learning. It is our daily objective to work with every student to positively impact achievement and improve his or her ability to think critically.

Our motto continues to be **“Uniting the Love of Learning with the Love of God.”** Last year we transitioned leadership of the Academy. Principal Lawrence A. Swoope retired after a stellar tenure and Principal Renee Benson Ludle was installed as Interim Principal. This year Principal Benson-Ludle was installed as the permanent Principal. In September, we started our school year with an enrollment of 87 students. This enrollment has proved quite manageable for our class sizes while focusing on improving our school climate and meeting the needs of each student both academically and behaviorally.

Our building participates in the Ohio Department of Education EdChoice Scholarship Program, of which 100% of our students participate. This scholarship program is the base of our income. Our current staff consists of 12 teachers and 7 support staff. As a team, we are dedicated to making ACA the best learning environment for all students, to the glory of God. Arlington Christian Academy is working to improve our income base through fundraising such as the **Fall Golf Outing, First Friday Dress Down, Firebird Marketplace**, business contributions and others. Our major fundraiser took place in the month of October 2022. We will continue to host a **back-to-school Golf Outing Annually**. This year we have intentionally implemented our **Family Series** with a number of events that promote the building of the family. Those events include; **Father-Daughter Dinner Date, Mother-Daughter Spa Day, Father-Son Field Day, and the Mother-Son Cookoff.**

Our goals for the 2022-2023 school year are:

- Increase enrollment
- Support and reinforce a culture of collaboration throughout the building
- Continue to improve team atmosphere while building staff morale
- Increase school-wide fundraising efforts
- Improve academic competence.

Continue to pray with us as we continue to “Unite the Love of Learning with the Love of God” and strive for excellence in all we do for our students. **Please continue to pray for the Arlington Christian Academy.**

Humbly submitted,
Renee

Irma Jones Preschool & Infant Center



Kaneda Dixon, Executive Director

- ❖ The 2022 school year presented staffing challenges. We **lost 2 teachers** for various reasons and **hired one** new teacher to join our family. She has been a part of our family for 8 months. It has been a pleasure working with and learning beside her.
- ❖ IJPIC qualified for a **stabilization grant** through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). Stabilization funds support states in providing financial relief to childcare programs by helping to defray unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and to help stabilize childcare program operations.
- ❖ Three classrooms were closed due to **COVID exposure** once in January, July, and August. The COVID policy required that we close the classrooms for two to three days. All exposure cases occurred near a weekend or holiday, which minimized family schedule disruption.
- ❖ IJPIC had a graduation ceremony for **14 graduates**. We had at least 75 guests come to celebrate them. It was a sweet celebration.
- ❖ This year, we decided to have **in-house activities** during the summer instead of traveling to various places. Our activities included the **West African Drummer, Kona, an ice truck, the Balloon Lady, Akron Zoo, Build-a-Bear Workshop**, and many more. All activities were at no cost to the parents.
- ❖ Congratulations to our **four** staff members who received their **Child Development Associate (CDA)** credential.
- ❖ Above all things we thank God for keeping us open and blessing us. Many centers closed due to the impact of COVID. We thank God for all that he has done for IJPIC.

Goals for 2023

- Operate responsibly and increase enrollment.
- Maintain or increase our star rating
- Improve wherever needed
- Increase family involvement



Pathways to Ministry & Maturity



1. Bible/Theology Classes

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Team Support Leader: Cynthia Lee

- Bridges Connecting God's Word to Life (Linda Thompson)
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(Seasonal; 10–20 participants)

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (Leslie Barnes)

(Developing; 2–5 participants)

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- Hospitality (Natalie DeGraffenreid)
- Irma Jones (Kaneda Dixon, Executive Dir.)
- Medical Board (Diane Reed)
- Special Event Security
- Tech & Media
- Van Ministry (Lynda Kelly Johnson)

3. Discipleship / Evangelism Team

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Team Support Leader:

Vacant

- Small-group discipleship
- Evangelism within ministries

6. Church Ministries

Shepherd: Leslie Barnes

Ministry Support Team Leader:

Bernice Lawshea

(ongoing, 10–50 participants)

- Choral Ministries (Leslie Barnes)
- Dance (Jennifer Gooding)
- Greeters (Cynda Williams)
- Instrumentalists (Al Parker)
- Sanctuary Décor (Gwen Hawkins)
- Ushers (Joe Williams)
- Worship Arts (Leslie Barnes)

8. Community Support

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Ministry Team Support Leader:

Veronica Sims (event driven)

- Community Partnerships (Veronica Sims)
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- YEPAW (Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop) (Leslie Barnes) *

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9. Life Training

Shepherd: Pastor Chuck Myricks

Ministry Team Support Leaders:

Tobin and Traci Buckner

- Financial Literacy (Dr. Greg Hill)

IN MEMORIAM 2022

Our Beloved ACOG Members

- Jessie Baker
- Brandon Buckner
- Anita Culp
- Earl Foster
- Kenneth Fowler
- Mary Olivia Groves
- Herman Hawkins
- Earnest Houston
- Rosalyn Jackson
- Bettye McCaskill
- Illya McGee
- Gladys Poole Johnson
- Brett Qualls
- James Shealey
- Beverly Shuler
- Harold Underwood
- Larry Vancant
- Madeline Williams

“Precious [and of great consequence] in the sight of the LORD is the death of His godly ones [so He watches over them].”

Psalm 116:15 (AMP)

Our Extended Family Members

- Robert Steve Beacham
- Ruby Bramlett
- Jacqueline Brown
- Myrtle Cummings
- Elinor Davis
- Robert Stanley Davis Sr
- Doris Ford
- Brandon Foster
- Christine Foston
- Clara Green
- Anwar Ashur Haslam
- Nehemiah Haynes
- James Hendricks
- Stephanie Slack Jackson
- Michael Jones
- Andrea Lee
- Paul Miller
- LaMonte Parker
- Marlyn Simmons
- Dennis Stepps
- Gail Strickland
- Bessie Harris Tolliver
- Geri Upton
- Shevaunghnd Williams

A New Start



Isaiah 40:31

“...but those who hope in the LORD will **renew their strength**. They will **soar** on wings like eagles; they will **run** and not grow weary, they will **walk** and not be faint.”



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