

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT



WAYSIDE CHAPEL

IS A COMMUNITY ROOTED IN THE WORD, REACHING OUT TO THE
WORLD, AND REPRODUCING CHRIST FOLLOWERS

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WOMEN'S DIRECTOR



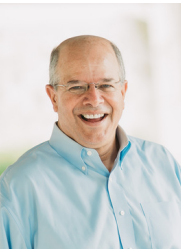
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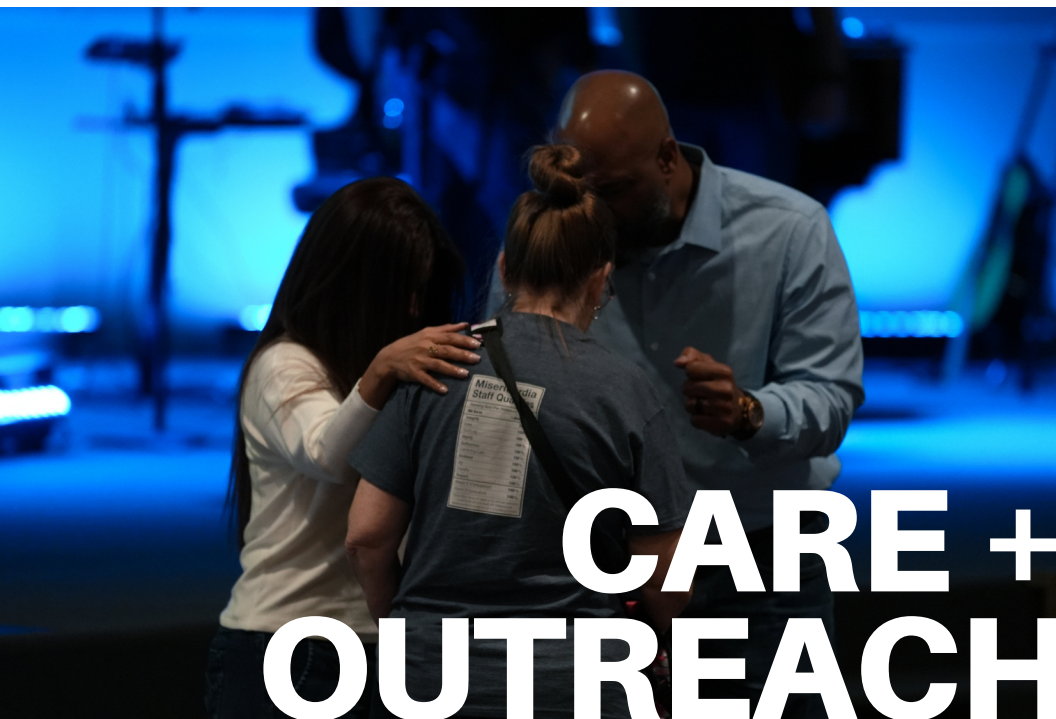
2025-26 ELDER TEAM

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BEN ELKINS | SHAUN GARDINER | JIM KUSTER | DANIEL MASCORRO
BILL MITCHELL | CHAD OLSEN | WAYLON SODD | JASON UPTMORE

At Wayside, we believe the Christian life was never meant to be lived alone. Jesus calls us into a community where we are continually being shaped to become more like Him, and everything we do flows from that calling. Our desire is to be a community that is rooted in the Word, reaching out to the world, and reproducing Christ followers.

As God continues to grow our church family, we're committed to helping people move beyond simply attending church and into meaningful community. We want every person to find a place where they are known, encouraged, challenged, and equipped to follow Jesus alongside others. Whether through Life Groups, Sunday Studies, serving, or gathering for worship, the focus is on helping people become more like Christ and live out His mission.

The pages that follow tell the story of God's faithfulness over the past year as we share the heart of our ministries and the lives that have been changed, people who have been served, and a church family seeking to faithfully follow Jesus together. We are grateful for all God has done, and we look forward with expectation to all He has yet to do.



CARE +
OUTREACH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Agape Ministry demonstrates Christ's love by blessing others physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

CORE VALUES

EMPOWERMENT

Mobilizing and empowering believers to serve and bless one another

COMMUNITY

Building a community network that leads to relationships where people care for one another

STEWARDSHIP

Stewarding the Agape Fund and ministries wisely

DIGNITY

Ensuring every person, whether receiving or giving care, feels seen, valued, and respected

BLESSING

Blessing others as we have been blessed

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Our memorial service teams continue to faithfully walk alongside families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Dedicated volunteers assist families with planning memorial services, while usher and reception teams help create a welcoming environment and provide practical support on the day of each service. Through these efforts, we are able to care for families during difficult seasons and demonstrate the love of Christ in meaningful and tangible ways.

COMMUNITY CARE

Our Home Visitation Team regularly visits individuals who are isolated or living in care facilities, providing encouragement and connection. We also send encouragement cards to those walking through illness, grieving the loss of a loved one, and on the one-year anniversary of a loss.

Through our Manna Meal Ministry and Food Pantry, we provide meals for individuals and families during times of special need. We support widows and single mothers by providing free oil changes and partner with the Men's Serve Team to help meet needs related to yard work and basic home repairs. We offer a monthly support group for men who are caring for a loved one, providing encouragement, community, and helpful resources for those walking through the challenges of caregiving.

The Agape Fund also provides short-term financial assistance to individuals and families from Wayside experiencing hardship.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Missions and Outreach ministries at Wayside Chapel exist to help fulfill our local and global calling for outreach and evangelism as expressed in our vision statement. We remain committed to global missions, strengthening local partnerships, mobilizing short-term teams, and equipping the next generation of believers.

SERVE OUR CITY

We saw God move the hearts of our church beyond our imagination during this year's Christmas project. We focused our Local Outreach on raising visibility and awareness of a major need in our city, in partnership with South Texas Alliance for Orphans. We collected 151 \$25 HEB gift cards in support of foster caregivers throughout Bexar County. Thank you to those who gave financially and volunteered to make this happen!

This year, for the National Day of Prayer, we felt God calling us for a day of nonstop prayer. Throughout the day, our congregation signed up for 5-minute slots and prayed using the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6 as a guide. We asked God for His will to be done "on earth as it is in Heaven." We also held an event that evening where we prayed as a unified body for our city, nation, and the world.

This summer, we launched a Shoe Drive in partnership with Vault Fostering Community - an organization dedicated to providing resources for local kinship and foster families at no cost. We collected around 100 pairs of new, name-brand tennis shoes to donate to Vault as part of their special back-to-school initiative. It was a practical way to show the love of Christ to children coming from a hard place.

We continue to have an effective partnership with a variety of local ministries, including Any Woman Can, Colonial Hills Ministry, New Hope Connection, Children's Hunger Fund, The Pregnancy Care Center, Discipleship Tape Ministry, Dallas Theological Seminary, One Way International, Grace House, and Disciple Daily.

SHORT-TERM TEAMS

We were grateful to once again send out multiple teams, as we organized short-term mission trips to New Orleans (Student Trip), Arizona, and Peru.

Hundreds of people have supported these trips, some by participating, others through prayer, some through service, and others through giving.

This year, Pablo had the privilege of joining the students on a mission trip to New Orleans in partnership with Praying Pelican Missions. They saw God at work as He used them to be the hands and feet of Jesus in His mission for the world.

SERVE OUR WORLD

We currently support 24 mission partners, 6 international organizations, and 11 domestic organizations in more than 20 countries worldwide.

For our Christmas project, globally, we partnered with ReachGlobal on their crisis relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Melissa. This Global Outreach raised over \$2,000! Every dollar was used to love our neighbors in Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica.

For the VBS Missions Project, our kids raised more than \$6,000 to fund scholarships for students at the El Camino Technical School in Peru, in collaboration with our strategic partners, Carlos and Meredith Block. Our kids had the opportunity to hear directly from them about what God is doing in the jungles of Peru through the school.

In response to the tragedy at Africa Renewal's Early Childhood Development Center, Wayside sent a \$10,000 gift to their *Triumph Over Tragedy* campaign to support the affected families, ARM staff, and to help build a new Early Childhood Center.

As part of our crisis response initiative, we sent \$5,000 through EFCA Crisis Response to Venezuela to help the communities devastated by the twin earthquakes on June 24.

SUNDAYS



VISION

Make Wayside feel like home so people can take their next steps with Jesus.

LOOKING BACK

Our vision served as the foundation for Connect Ministry throughout this past year as we sought to create an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality, and genuine welcome where people experienced the love of Christ from the moment they arrived on campus. Our amazing team of volunteers (Greeters, Ushers, Parking Team, Welcome Center Hosts, Main Office Receptionists, and Chair Crew) helped us carry out our desire to care well for people, remove barriers, and help everyone feel at home at Wayside.

During 2025, leadership of Connect Ministry transitioned from Pastor Stephen Lay to Pastor Cameron Contrestano. We are deeply grateful for Stephen's faithful leadership and the strong foundation he established through years of investing in this ministry and cultivating a culture of hospitality.

The Connect Ministry currently consists of 59 faithful volunteers serving across our various hospitality teams. In addition to creating a welcoming environment each Sunday, the team also plans and hosts Discovering Wayside, an important first step toward membership that introduces people to Wayside's theology, leadership, mission, and ministry opportunities. Through this process, we had the privilege of welcoming 86 new members into the Wayside family during 2025.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we look ahead, we are excited to build on this strong foundation with an increased emphasis on developing not only a team that serves well, but a ministry that forms people spiritually. Our hope is to continue growing a culture where hospitality is understood as ministry, volunteers are encouraged and equipped to serve from spiritual overflow, and every interaction—from the parking lot to the worship center, becomes an opportunity to embody the welcome of Jesus. We believe this ministry will continue to play a vital role in helping Wayside feel like home for our church family and for those God brings through our doors.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We exist to lead the people of Wayside Chapel to have an encounter with God by building up skilled volunteer musicians and production technicians to create distraction-free journeys of worship.

FORMED

Before the worship team can lead the congregation anywhere, it has to be shaped itself — in skill, in vision, and in community. That formation work was the quiet foundation of everything else this year.

VALUES

EXCELLENCE

We pursue the highest standards in all aspects of worship and technical production, recognizing that our God deserves our very best.

CREATIVITY

We embrace innovative approaches to worship that honor tradition while engaging contemporary hearts and minds.

COMMUNITY

We foster deep relationships within our team and create welcoming spaces for all who seek to encounter God through worship.

LEGACY

We invest in the next generation of worship leaders and technical servants, building a foundation that will serve our church family for years to come.

YOUNG ADULTS & COMMUNITY WORSHIP

The year opened with a community worship night that re-established the heartbeat of gathered praise at the start of the fall semester. Young Adults worship nights continued as a consistent space for emerging musicians and singers to both grow and serve — a low-risk, high-investment environment that feeds the larger team.

SUMMER WORSHIP INTERNSHIP — A FIRST FOR WAYSIDE

In the summer we launched Wayside's first Summer Worship Internship, inviting Aslinn Quinn and Sidney Davies to join the team. Weekly curriculum meetings were paired with direct Sunday involvement in the Sanctuary and Student rooms across both worship and production. This is what legacy looks like in practice: not just filling slots, but forming the next generation of worship leaders and technical servants who will carry this ministry forward.

SERVED

The measure of a worship and production team isn't Sunday morning alone — it's whether it shows up when the rest of the church needs it. This year, our team showed up.

CHRISTMAS EVE, EASTER, & GOOD FRIDAY

The worship and creative teams brought intentional new elements to Christmas Eve, Good Friday, and Easter morning. The collaboration between teams produced services that the congregation felt, and the planning investment was visible in every moment.

STUDENT MINISTRY SUNDAY

The student band took complete ownership of Student Ministry Sunday by choosing songs, running rehearsals, and leading the congregation with genuine authority. It was the strongest student-led Sunday the team has experienced at Wayside. On stage and in the production booth, students served alongside the regular team at every position.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Volunteer worship leader Carlos Belmares led the city-wide National Day of Prayer gathering alongside Pablo and Chloe. This was discipleship in action: a volunteer stepping from the stage into the city, carrying the worship culture of Wayside into the broader community.

SUMMER WORSHIP CIRCLES

A monthly series of dedicated worship gatherings launched in May and ran through the summer. Each gathering centered on scripture, praise, prayer, and contemplation. May drew from Luke 10 and the invitation to choose presence over productivity. June turned to Matthew 11 and the rest Jesus offers to the weary. The production team fully supported each gathering with portable setup and teardown in the Fellowship Hall, developing a system that now runs cleanly every month.

VBS

The worship team performed live during the VBS grand finale, joining the Kids assembly team on stage for an energetic moment of worship with hundreds of children. The production team built the most complex technical package of the year: custom sound effects, multi-room audio and lighting, and stage design support across all VBS spaces.

MEN'S RETREAT • EQUIP MOMS • CAMPUS EVENTS

Tech and worship support extended to the men's retreat, Equip Moms, and other ministry events throughout the year. The production team's willingness to serve wherever the ministry is happening, without fanfare, is one of the quiet marks of this team's character.

GROWING

The best indicator of a healthy ministry isn't the size of last year's events but the infrastructure, people, and systems being built for the years ahead.

CAMPUS TECHNICAL UPGRADES

Major infrastructure work was completed across the building this year: a new worship center computer, a replacement for the high school room, new phone systems campus-wide, and a streamlined video broadcast transmission process. The Fellowship Hall AV cart installation opened new possibilities for portable ministry. None of this work is visible on a Sunday morning, but all of it makes Sunday mornings possible.

PRODUCTION VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

Recruiting and training a larger production serving team remains an active priority. As programming grows, the need for a trained, committed volunteer base grows with it. The work begun this year — bringing students into the booth, training interns, developing systems — is the beginning of a more deliberate pipeline.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Summer Worship Circle series culminates in the Fall Kick-off event in September, establishing the worship culture for the year ahead. The Summer Internship continues to develop Aslinn and Sidney through the summer. And the team carries forward what this year has confirmed: that a culture of excellence, creativity, community, and legacy is not something that happens — it's something that gets built, one service, one person, and one decision at a time.



Our Community Ministries focused on cultivating biblical community as a Christ-centered family marked by belonging, formation, and mission. We emphasized that discipleship grows through trusted relationships where people are known, welcomed, shaped by Scripture, and invited to obey Jesus together. Whether around tables in homes or in Sunday classrooms, these communities become places of hospitality, prayer, honest conversation, learning, and shared life where Christ forms us together into His image.

SUNDAY STUDIES

We offered 13 Sunday Studies with an average weekly attendance of 309 adults. These classes include both age-and-stage and intergenerational communities, providing Wayside's with steady rhythms of Bible study, prayer, discussion, and care. Leaders helped classes become welcoming places where people can build meaningful relationships, engage Scripture, ask honest questions, and grow in faith together. This year, we also gave special attention to hospitality and connection for young and single adults as they seek meaningful belonging on Sunday mornings.

LIFE GROUPS

Across our community, 23 Life Groups created space for approximately 326 Waysiders, including 226 adults and 100 children, to share life and follow Jesus in smaller, more personal communities. We encouraged groups to strengthen rhythms of Scripture, prayer, and intentional relationship, with special emphasis on regular meals as a simple but meaningful way to deepen connection. We also focused on the value of trustworthy leadership: leaders who show up faithfully, create safe spaces, listen with humility, and model dependence on Christ. Through these groups, we continue to see people experience care, friendship, spiritual growth, and the steady grace of walking with Jesus alongside others through the ordinary joys and burdens of life.

EQUIPPING CLASSES

Ten couples completed our Premarital Class, establishing a Christ-centered foundation for marriage through biblical teaching, honest conversation, and mentor support. In our marriage enrichment class, re|engage, 27 couples committed to growing in love, honesty, humility, and unity with Jesus at the center of their marriage.

Eleven adults completed Financial Peace University, learning biblical and practical tools for stewardship. Six adults completed Fundamentals of the Faith, strengthening their foundation in Scripture, prayer, assurance, and daily discipleship.

Across these ministries, we see the Lord using focused environments to form His people in specific areas of life. We're grateful for the leaders, mentors, hosts, and facilitators who create trustworthy spaces for honest questions, practical obedience, and growth in Christ.

Looking ahead, we pray that our Community Ministries will continue to deepen biblical community marked by genuine belonging, formation into Christlikeness, and participation in God's mission across San Antonio, the U.S., and the world.

MINISTRY VISION

Men's ministry makes disciples who make disciples in their families, workplace, and world. We want every man to connect authentically, grow to maturity, and serve joyfully.

CONNECT

Authentic relationships develop when men come together in community, building camaraderie, connection, and a commitment to one another. Men's ministry creates opportunities for men to connect regularly through events, groups, and service opportunities. Our men's connection breakfasts offer a chance for men to connect with one another and learn more about the ministry.

EVENTS

Our annual Summit Retreat offers a wonderful opportunity for men to deepen their relationship with God and with one another in the Texas Hill Country. Our Father/Daughter Date Night offers dads and daughters a chance to strengthen their relationship in a fun-filled evening, while the Father/Son Campout provides dads and sons with an opportunity to get away, slow down, and spend quality time together.

GROW

Our discipleship groups, Bible studies, 6-man groups, and integrity groups are opportunities for men to grow to maturity by being rooted in the living Word, Jesus Christ, and the written Word, the Bible. Whether a new or seasoned believer, there are growth opportunities for every man.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship groups offer a space where small groups of men journey through discipleship together, fostering camaraderie, connection, and commitment. These intergenerational groups focus on the foundations of the faith through shared experience.

BIBLE STUDY

Each semester, we offer in-depth studies designed to challenge men in their knowledge, application, and obedience to God's word. These textual, topical, and theological studies seek to provide a sound spiritual foundation for men.

6-MAN GROUPS

Our 6-man groups meet a few times a month, offering men the opportunity to study God's Word inductively and collaboratively as they seek to grow together in fellowship, study, and prayer.

INTEGRITY MINISTRY

Becoming the man the Bible describes involves cultivating your integrity and finding strength in your identity, mind, heart, and character given to you by Christ. Our integrity study exposes every man to the spiritual problems and solutions behind a lack of integrity and encourages growth. Our purity groups help men break free from the entanglement of sexual sin through honesty and voluntary accountability. Knowing healing can take time, we want men to develop a plan and grow by surrendering every part of their lives to God.

SERVE

Men are called to serve; in their families, church community and workplace. Whether the service includes contribution in connect ministries, small groups, worship, events, leading a team, teaching, or being an elder, Wayside men engage across the church alongside others in service to Christ.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

At the heart of leadership development is the call to servant leadership. Leadership development engages emerging leaders in an interactive process that shapes their character, leadership skills, and sense of calling. Our leadership cohort pairs leaders with skilled mentors as they walk together through the topics of leading yourself, leading a few, leading teams, and leading ministries.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Adults in the second half of life are a vital and valued force in the life of the church—uniquely equipped to model following Jesus, multiply faith in the next generation, and steward a legacy of Christ-centered living.

CORE VALUES

LIFELONG PURSUIT OF CHRIST

Maturing in faith by pursuing Christ and His Word

INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT

Investing in the next generation of believers through discipling relationships

COMMUNITY

Building meaningful relationships that provide encouragement, accountability, and joy

SERVICE

Using gifts, time, and wisdom to meet needs in the church and beyond

MONTHLY GATHERINGS | SEPTEMBER – MAY | 2ND WEDNESDAYS

The monthly Senior Adult Gatherings continue to provide a meaningful opportunity for connection, fellowship, learning, and service within our senior adult community. Over the past year, we averaged 38 attendees per gathering and enjoyed a variety of engaging speakers, activities, and special events. Highlights from the year included a Christmas carol sing-along, a fellowship event designed to help senior adults connect with and get to know our pastoral team, and a VBS Workday where participants served together to pack 1200 snack bags!

MONTHLY GATHERINGS (CONT.)

Additionally, a dedicated greeting team was established to assist with setup, cleanup, and serving during monthly gatherings and other special events. This team has grown throughout the year, and their faithful investment in the ministry has been a tremendous blessing!

OTHER EVENTS

Throughout the year, we provide several additional opportunities and special events for senior adults to connect and build community beyond our monthly gatherings. These opportunities include a weekly fitness class, a weekly game day, and a biweekly men's Bible study. In April, we organized a bus trip to Fredericksburg and Wildseed Farms. In July, we hosted a Hymn Sing, and in August, we held a Back-to-School Grandparent and Grandkid Brunch. These events created meaningful opportunities for fellowship, connection, and enjoying time together in unique and engaging ways.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Our purpose is to empower Wayside Women to know and live out their identity in Christ to ABIDE. GO. + EQUIP. through His Spirit.

ABIDE

BIBLE STUDIES

We launched brand new small groups called *Grow Groups* where women gathered together in intergenerational groups and studied the book of Ruth as well as the Sermon on the Mount! Our Precept Bible study had an in-depth study of the spiritual gifts with over 30 women registered.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

We launched a new mom's event called, *Equip Moms* where moms could gather twice a year over a nice meal and warm discussion. We desire to equip our moms in what they need to be faithful followers of Christ while they raise their children.

We also launched a new health and wellness community group called, *Healthy by His Design* led by Ann Peterson. The group meets monthly and discusses how to best steward our bodies (mind, body, and soul) for God's glory!

THE GATHERING: A WAYSIDE WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

We had over 150 women registered to focus on the advent of Christ, worshipping through song, scripture reading, and hearing an emphasis on prayer from Mary Beth Welsh. It was a powerful night setting our hearts on Jesus!

GO

CRU CHRISTMAS CARDS

The women participated in our annual Christmas card drive, supporting the trainees at Lackland Air Force Base with over 700 cards written. The feedback from the recruits was heartwarming.

SERVICE DAY

Our Grow Groups participated in a service day this spring, where they served together, from cleaning the Wayside library to serving the homeless. We are thankful that God continues to knit the women together through serving.

EQUIP

unAPOLOGETIC

We offer a book club to equip women in apologetics. This book club format executed four groups reading and discussing the book, "Tactics" by Greg Koukl. It was encouraging to hear the women's experiences and responses to diving into apologetics, as well as their desire to keep learning!

EQUIP WAYSIDE

Women's Ministry partnered with the Mission's Ministry at an equipping event, Equip Wayside by focusing on the call of evangelism and small daily habits we can have to be prepared to share at any given moment. It was a powerful night getting equipped!

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are a community of young adults learning to follow Jesus together - sharing life, seeking God's presence, and becoming more like Christ for the sake of others.

CORE VALUES

FORMED INTO CHRIST

Learning to follow Jesus in a pivotal season of life

CONNECTED IN COMMUNITY

Building authentic friendships around the table and the Word

EQUIPPED FOR MISSION

Discovering purpose, and being sent into the world with courage

TRANSITIONS

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

This year marked a leadership transition as Christian Prather stepped in as Young Adults Director. The transition was intentional and collaborative, with a focus on honoring what Cameron built while giving space to shape what's next for the ministry.

SUMMER TRANSITION

This summer, Wayside Chapel Young Adults paused regular programming. This was an intentional decision tied to the leadership transition: responsibilities are being split to lighten the load on Christian (who just welcomed a new baby girl), and the break created space for Christian and the YA team to build out structure and vision before launching into fall.

SERVE & SATURATE

We've continued building a "Serve and Saturate" culture — young adults not just attending, but actively serving across the church and saturating their week with the Word. This year we saw a real increase in both YA involvement in service and attendance in Adult Sunday studies.

THIS YEAR'S THEMES

Fall '26 — "HOUSE"

Who we are as a ministry, and building culture and ownership.

Spring '27 — "BE CHURCH"

What it means to live out God's call on our lives as part of His people, individually, at Wayside, locally, across the country, and globally.

FALL STRUCTURE

Fall will bring a new rhythm for WCYA — Sunday Serve and Saturate, and House Gatherings every Tuesday. The emphasis will be on building consistent structure while giving leaders room to grow into ownership in a new season.

EVENTS

This fall, WCYA will gather for our annual retreat this October — a chance to reset, build community, and step into the "HOUSE" theme together outside our regular weekly rhythm. This winter, WCYA Leadership will attend Passion Conference together.



NEXT GENERATION



PURPOSE STATEMENT

We earnestly desire for children to encounter God's love through Christ so that truth, purpose, and joy are rooted in their lives from a young age. We are deeply grateful for another year of faithful ministry partners who understand that their preparation and presence have an eternal impact on every child who walks through the doors of Wayside Chapel.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Each Sunday, we welcome an average of 250 children, from the nursery through 5th grade. In our nursery rooms, even our youngest "walkers and talkers" begin learning the simple rhythms of faith: we talk to God, and we hear from His Word. Our preschoolers are guided by room "Shepherds" through engaging rotations such as Praise and Prayer and Bible Builders, helping them connect with God through movement, music, and hands-on learning. In our elementary ministry, faithful teachers lead children through a chronological journey of the Bible, building a solid foundation in God's Word.

We were also blessed to see so many students sign up to serve in Kids Ministry this year. They have become an invaluable part of our preschool classes during the 11 AM service, faithfully supporting both leaders and children each week.

AWANA

With strong continuation of program and club leadership we had over 160 AWANA clubbers attend on a weekly basis. At the end of the club year, we celebrated five graduating seniors from the Journey club who earned the Citation Award, the highest honor in AWANA.

MIDWEEK MINISTRY

This year, we partnered with the Women's Ministry to align our nursery and preschool programs with daytime Bible studies, providing meaningful support for moms attending these gatherings. Throughout the week, preschoolers participated in God and Me, where they explored God's character through Scripture, worship, and hands-on creative activities.

VBS 2026

This summer, we were thrilled to welcome more than 400 children and 400 volunteers to VBS: Rainforest Falls. Through energetic songs, engaging skits, and meaningful Bible lessons, the week captured the hearts of children and volunteers alike as we explored the nature of God with a posture of wonder.

The children attending also raised more than \$6,000 to support our strategic mission partners, Carlos and Meredith Block, who serve the Yanesha people in Peru. These funds will provide scholarships for students attending the recently established El Camino technical school. We rejoice that more than 75 children received Gospel counseling during the week, and we give thanks to God for the eternal impact made this week through the generosity of time and treasure.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Echo student ministry is truth and love reproduced in authentic community. Our desire is to see students echo Christ in everything they do.

NOWELL FAMILY/TEAMWORK

We are so proud of our students and leaders for how they responded to this tragedy. We saw students come together to pray at the hospital, students lead and organize a worship night at homes, and continue faithfully praying for Tim, Kim, and Ali. We saw our leaders meet our students where they were to minister to them in a difficult time.

Jacob, Maggie, and Christian stepped in to develop a plan that kept Student Ministry moving forward. Thanks to the leadership of Jacob, Maggie, and student leaders, we were able to continue with everything we had planned, including Student Ministry Sunday, our mission trip, and summer camp. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and the steady leadership they provided throughout the summer.

REVERB

We had a great year in Reverb! In the fall, High School students learned to ask One More Question: how digging deeper can lead to gospel conversations with others. In the spring, they followed along in the church-wide series on the Sermon on the Mount, learning the teachings of Jesus and how to live them out. Middle school students focused on how to have a relational and experiential understanding of the gospel by asking three questions: what are you feeding your soul, what are you feeding your flesh, and what are you feeding others? Echo students studied God's Word to apply it to their lives, built deeper friendships, and had tons of fun!

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

This past March, we held a parent meeting to honor Christian Prather who became the Young Adults Director, and introduce Jacob Espinoza as the new Associate Student Director. This was an important opportunity for parents to hear Jacob's testimony, heart for student ministry, and philosophy of ministry: partnering with them as they disciple their students.

ECHO WEEKEND

In November, over 160 students and volunteers participated in Echo Weekend! During this in-town retreat, students stayed in host homes across the city, shared meals around the table, corporately worshipped together, and grew closer to Jesus. This past year's theme was Stories: looking at the real people who encountered Jesus and how their stories still matter today. It was an incredibly fun and impactful weekend!

SPRING RETREAT

In March, we had 100 students and leaders join us at Camp Zephyr for Spring Retreat! Our theme this year was Truth vs. Lies as we discussed how the truth from God's Word can help us combat the lies we all face in our minds, hearts, and world. The truth is, we are loved by God, have a place in His kingdom, and can walk confidently in his grace for us! Over the three days we worshipped, played games, had small-group conversations, and spent needed time in God's creation. We love Spring Retreat!

STUDENT MINISTRY SUNDAY (SMS)

Our Middle school and High school students did an incredible job serving on SMS. They were able to serve the church in multiple ways and use the gifts God has given them! They served in the parking lot, greeting, worship, and led icebreakers in Sunday Studies. SMS is important because it reminds us, and the students, that they are needed and wanted here in the church!

STUDENT LUNCHESES

Students have been faithfully attending our summer lunches, and it's been a great opportunity for them to connect with one another. It's also given Jacob more chances to connect with parents at pickup and drop-off, and to hear more about how their students are doing.

MISSION TRIP

Our New Orleans trip was impactful for our 19 students. They grew closer as a church family by serving the Lord together through street evangelism, working a VBS, and serving at a men's and women's shelter. We were grateful to have our Mission Pastor, Pablo, join us on the trip. His passion for missions showed, and he did a great job connecting with our students. It's a great reminder of the kind of team we have here at Wayside.

SUMMER CAMP

Something shifts in students at camp that's hard to replicate anywhere else, and this year was no exception. We saw students respond with salvations, recommitments, confession, repentance, and impactful testimonies. We challenged the students to grow together as a church family during camp, and they rose to it, stepping outside their normal circles to get to know other students in our ministry.

We hope this has given you a glimpse of the amazing things God has been doing at Wayside this past year! We are so thankful for your generosity of time, resources, and prayer that have allowed the ministries of Wayside to continue. If you are not connected in one of our ministries, we invite you to start today!

Be sure to download our church app and stay connected with all the latest events, sermons, and more!

