

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



THE BLVD
Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

transforming
Lives
*for the **next generation***



COMMUNICATIONS
MEMPHIS | ATLANTA

2023 HERMES CREATIVE AWARD

03/16/23

The design for the **2022 Annual Report for Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church**, titled "Transforming Lives for the Next Generation," perfectly captures the church's vast impact on the greater Memphis community. The report utilizes images from the organization's congregational and community events to enhance the story of the church's outreach. This combination of images, text, and graphics creates a powerful and cohesive narrative that showcases the church's commitment to transforming lives.

One of the most striking features of the design is the dynamic mixture of winding abstract patterns that symbolize the element of "transformation." The patterns add a level of depth and complexity to the design, while also serving as a visual metaphor for the transformative work being done by the church. The contrasting chromatic shades of red were also used to highlight the church's brand palette, creating a cohesive and visually stunning report. The design of the report is a visually modern interpretation of the church's far-reaching and ongoing commitment to the community. The colors, patterns and composition unify to tell a powerful story of the church's dedication to transforming lives.

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Beloved Disciples,

Through the faithfulness and goodness of God, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (DOC) continues to be a congregation that is a "movement of wholeness" in this fragmented world. After reaching the centennial milestone, we could have succumbed to the temptation to rest on our laurels. However, we recommitted ourselves to the call of Christ on our congregation with a resolve in 2022 to prepare the church to transform lives for the next century. I am grateful to God and each one of you for your service, commitment, and sacrifice in living out God's call upon our church in this year.

With 2023 on the horizon, we continue to commit ourselves to the work that will lead to the transformation of humanity and this broken world. We will endeavor in the year that is to come to Transform Lives for the Next Generation. Psalm 71:17-18 says, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." As we have been blessed by God's goodness and the ministry of Mississippi Boulevard, it is our responsibility to commend our faith and witness to the next generation. My prayer for each of you is that you will find your place of service in the life of our church so that we can rise to the occasion for the sake of the Church and for the next generation.

As we approach a decade together as Pastor and People, I am honored to serve alongside the amazing people who make up our congregation. This annual report chronicles God's work in the life of our congregation. As you peruse the pages, give praise to God for what God has done through each one of you. I know, without any fear of contradiction, that God has great things ahead for us. Let us go confidently into our NEXT!

In the covenant of love,

J. Lawrence Turner

Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner
Senior Pastor



This season of my 33rd year at the Blvd has been an ever evolving one, with development of the capacity to be able to pivot at moment's notice with all the changes in cultural climate, Covid-19, and reopening of our doors. It has been a team effort and I'm grateful for each of our staff and volunteers who have been accommodating, supportive, and made these processes feasible. This year, we continued to manifest the vision to LEAD, LEARN, LIVE AND LOVE without LIMITS in creative ways of ministry. From dramatizations and interpretive dance to instrumental presentations and special guest soloists. All have been used to portray the message of discipleship to all who enter the doors at the BLVD.

We have ensured that all our worship presentations are done with excellence, variety, and professionalism.

A huge thank you to Keenan Shotwell, Steve Bethany, Kem Gray, Tevin Curtis, David Edwards, Nedra Gatewood, Brock Brown, and Adrienne Cater, the phenomenal team of musicians dedicated to bringing the vision to life. This nucleus, along with our superb worship teams has been dedicated and consistent with our weekly worship encounters. We have enveloped the changing trends in worship while maintaining our standard of diversity, excellence in execution, and the experience of transformation.

Our team has been intentional with the commitment to safety protocols to ensure that gatherings are not only productive but safe for all. The greeters and ushers have helped to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all who attend. The media team has maintained our online presence and assisted with our virtual connections.

On Easter Sunday, we welcomed a special musical guest, Ricky Dillard. As a result, we maximized attendance and offered an impactful and engaging worship presentation. Our Homecoming Celebration was second to none with the incorporation of various elements including the Central High School band, food trucks, t-shirts, and many opportunities for connection.

You, as our amazing congregants, are an integral part of the music ministry. Your engagement and support have propelled us through this season and enhanced every aspect of our worship experience.

Soli Deo Gloria

Leo H. Davis

Dr. Leo H. Davis
Director of Worship



THE BLVD Kids

THE BLVD KIDS AND EVOLVE ANNUAL REPORT

A church without vibrant and flourishing children and youth ministries can count its days. Aside from it being Biblically mandated, making an investment in the next generations of leaders is vital to the life of a church. The BLVD is proud to pour into and encourage our young people.

Here are the great things that happened in 2022 in The BLVD Kids and Evolve Ministries.

END OF YEAR PLANS

We hosted a homework hub during the Wednesday night revivals. We are preparing for our Christmas program and annual community service event which will include sending holiday cards to the congregational family members who are in the Armed Services. November was the baptism of the year with twelve children getting baptized bringing our total to **18 for the year.**

NEXUS STUDENT MINISTRY

Nexus Student Ministry also had some great wins in 2022.

1. Awarded **19 graduating seniors** with MBCC Scholarships
2. Raised over **120K in scholarship funds**
3. Returned to **in-person student worship** on both campuses
4. Relaunched **Boys' Mentoring Program** at both The BLVD and Memphis Business Academy
5. Completed **Phase 1 renovations** to youth worship spaces

JAN

Services and activities were virtual in January. BLVD Kids met each Sunday at noon and although attendance reached highs and lows, we averaged about 20 BLVD Kids weekly and approximately 10-15 Evolve aged students weekly. In January, we were also excited to host a virtual vision board party and yoga with Brwnskn Yoga company.

FEB

The BLVD Kids attended a virtual book reading with local author and longtime librarian, Alice Faye Duncan. In addition, The Kids participated in the Black History program and began practicing for the Easter program both in person and online.

APR

The Kids performed in person at the Easter program. The ministry took on a fundraising project to raise money in support of a community need. Volunteer training began in preparation for the return to in person worship.

MAY

Nexplex, the newly decorated children and youth area, launched. We completed our fundraising project and invested the money raised to purchase personal hygiene items. We made donations to our adopted school, Schools of Perea, Kirby High School, Douglas High School, and Treadwell Middle School.

For Mother's Day, we gave moms the morning off while The Kids participated in a skating event.

JUN

During the Father/Son Breakfast, the BLVD Kids volunteered to served the men for their Father's Day gift.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held in person for four days at our Southwind campus. Along with classes for kids, there were simultaneous classes for parents which worked out perfectly during the spike in gas prices. Approximately 50 people attended each night including volunteers.

AUG

August was all about education. Our kids attended a back-to-school event, started our first virtual book study in conjunction with the church wide study and began a Bible club at the Schools of Perea. The director also participated in mentoring at Memphis Business Academy and participated in Lunch Buddies with Memphis Shelby County Schools at Treadwell Middle school.

OCT

October brought no tricks - only treats to our kids as they enjoyed the Wizard of Oz set up at our Southwind Campus for HallelujahFest this year. Check out page 12, for pictures and more details!





DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Proclaiming Jesus. Teaching with all wisdom so that all who hear can show maturity and growth. This is the mission of disciples ministries in churches around the world. At the BLVD, we live out this mission and it shows our love.

Between January 1 and November 30, we experienced an increase in the body of Christ.

-  **58**
New Members
-  **21**
Baptisms
-  **13**
Baby Dedications
-  **39**
Life Groups
-  **717**
Life Group Attendees

MEN'S MINISTRY

JUN 18

Father/Son Breakfast

It was all about connecting during the Men's Ministry first post-pandemic fellowship Father's Day Weekend. Fathers and sons gathered for breakfast, conversations, laughter and most importantly, prayer. We know that covering our young men in prayer is the greatest protection we can offer in the face of all the senseless violence against them everywhere. Surrounding them with good company and great examples will help them grow stronger and encourage a deeper relationship with God.

Men's Emphasis Sunday

This year, during Men's Emphasis Sunday, the BLVD welcomed guest speakers, Rev. James C. Turner and Dr. Charles E. Turner. If the last names sound familiar, it's because they are both brothers of our own Pastor Turner!

SEP 11

Momentum Men's Ministry Breakfast

The theme for the day was "Health and Wellness". BLVD men gathered to hear from health and wellness experts over a healthy bite. The day not only included food for the body and the mind, but also a little workout too!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Chosen Vessels Women's Ministry is all about service to the community both inside and outside the walls of the BLVD.

In the face of unfortunate circumstances...

Sometimes in our society, a woman escaping an abusive situation can only leave with the clothes on her back. In these instances, the need for donations is great. The Chosen Vessels Women's Ministry stepped in this year by assembling and donating necessities bags for women receiving support through the Family Safety Center, YWCA and Hospitality Hub.

In support of our members who are mothers...

A mother is one of the most important people we meet on life's journey. They have the incredible ability to give us both roots and wings. They know us sometimes better than we know ourselves and they sacrifice themselves for us. They are love. That is why Mother's Day is so important to us at The BLVD. The women's ministry distributed gifts to all members who identified as mothers on Mother's Day this year. We love you mothers!

In celebration of women...

The Chosen Vessels Women's Ministry ended the year celebrating the strength and resilience of women with a private screening of The Woman King! The Woman King is a story inspired by true events of an all-female warrior tribe, the Agojie, who protected the African Kingdom of Dahomey in the 1800s. The film stars and was produced by Viola Davis.

It has been a beautiful year. If you are a sister at the BLVD, you are a member! We look forward to seeing you actively participating in the ministry soon.

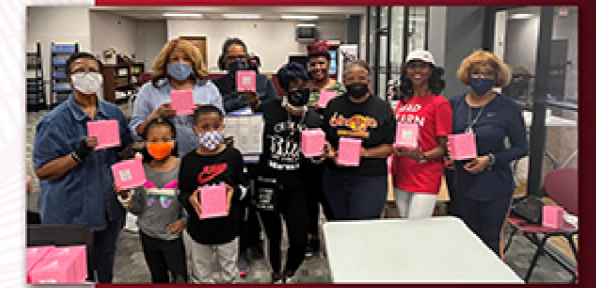
NEW HORIZONS MINISTRY

You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry (Exodus 22: 22-23)

Caring for widows is biblically mandated. And as the BLVD is a bible-based church, we ensure that our widows (as well as our children) are cared for. Part of that care includes opportunities for widows to support each other in the New Horizons Ministry.

This year, members of the Horizons Ministry connected monthly to study and pray together. They took the time to be there for each other through celebrations and losses. They participated in most of the BLVD's outreach and fellowship opportunities and gave financial support to the next generation via the New Horizons Ministry Scholarship.

Finally, they participated in financial literacy sessions where guest speakers conducted information sessions on budgeting, investing, estate planning and insurance.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
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