

Impact 2021-22

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Letter from Pastor Ed



This year many of us were celebrating the lifting of COVID restrictions and the return to “normal” life. Only normal wasn’t normal anymore. We’ve returned to a new normal and what that new normal is like isn’t entirely known, yet.

While it is easy to focus on what we may have lost, I think God does some of his finest work in turmoil and chaos, like COVID. COVID forced us to create a new online ministry that serves our people (and others) and yet, since returning, our in-person worship has a new feel: it is more intimate, more vibrant, and more engaged. While surveys tell us that 20-30% of people attending pre-COVID won’t be back, we have seen the arrival of new people that have come with a new energy and willingness to engage.

On top of that, many of our family have remained and been incredibly faithful in our giving. Through two years of COVID, God enabled us to give away more than \$1,000,000 to needy people and organizations outside Springvale. And, because of our faithfulness in giving, we (elders) believe God is encouraging us to embark upon two new bold faith steps financially: hiring Dustin Boreland to facilitate

a new learning environment to deepen our understanding of the Word and working on plans to transform our unfinished area of the building into a vibrant, well-equipped, and desirable children’s ministry area to reach and serve families in our church and in our region.

This past summer, our first post-COVID summer, we had an unprecedented number of children in summer camps, an unprecedented number of non-church families attending those camps, and as a result saw at least 16 children choose to put their faith in Jesus. And there has been a growing renewal among our Young Adults through our Life Groups and Gather GTA events along with a fantastic response to our new Junior and Senior High program on Thursday nights.

Yes, COVID changed us but despite the unusual circumstances we endured, God continued (and continues) to work. Exciting!

—

Ed Fontaine

Senior Pastor

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Letter from Board Chair



As I think about the ministry year that has just ended the word **THANKFUL** keeps coming to my mind. We have slowly but surely moved away from all the difficult COVID guidelines and were able to operate most of our ministries with very few restrictions. It was a joy to see not only our worship service slowly increase in-person attendance but also most of our ministries. From kids to youth to young adults to seniors, all are gathering to hear and study God's word.

We have had the privilege to join monthly for our in-person prayer meetings.

Our Life Groups have been free to meet in person with one another for Bible study, prayer, and encouragement.

Gatherings and ministry have become "normal" again.

On top of that we have made significant contributions to our community and global missions. Our church family gave generously to purchase Bibles for Christians in Ethiopia, we sent significant support to Ukrainian refugees through our ministry partners in Poland, and we sent financial gifts to local ministry partners and organizations. We have also given to needs in our local community through our Community Care fund.

All this impact has been in addition to our regular giving to support the work of our church. Week by week the gospel is preached faithfully with impact from our platform. The Word of God is read publicly, voices are lifted in praise to Jesus, intercession is made, and Communion is celebrated regularly.

We have seen people believe in Jesus for the first time, we have witnessed baptisms and heard powerful testimonies of transformed lives, and we have received new members into our church family. God has been kind and gracious to us and I am thankful for what He has done in our Springvale family over this past year.

Thank you to every member and person in our Springvale community that has joined in to worship, serve, pray, study God's word, give, evangelize, and live in community. I praise God for the faithfulness I see in so many of you as you commit fully to our church family. I praise God and celebrate the impact He has allowed us to have this past year. I would also like to remind all of you that the end of a ministry year means a new one is about to begin. We are called to grow in our walk with God. I invite you to continue asking God boldly that He would use Springvale to impact our personal walk with God and the lives of people in our families, our local communities and around the globe.

—

Tim Bauman

Chairman of the Board of Elders

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New Initiatives



Giveaway Sundays

Community Care launched a new initiative this year designed to provide the Springvale family with a simple, easy gift to give away as an act of love and kindness to our friends, neighbours and coworkers. Our aim is to give away double the amount next year!

- 329 containers of “Soup in a Jar” were gifted
- 184 containers of “Cookie in a Jar” were gifted

Bible Study

One of our strategic goals is to deepen our discipleship at Springvale. Specifically, increase biblical literacy and theological formation. In the spring of 2021 we took our first step to achieve this by running a six-week study on the book of Ruth for 30 participants. As we want to find more spaces for people to use their gifting, all of the curriculum writing and teaching was done in house. Very positive feedback was received as people shared that they received new skills to be better equipped to study God’s Word and saw the book of Ruth from a fresh perspective!

Online Blog

After much planning, we launched our online blog with the intention of providing practical online resources for people. Whether it be through Issues I Face, podcasts, video stories or articles, we are excited with the response! When partnered with our social media platforms, we can direct people to our website on a variety of topics; parenting, singleness, addiction, finances, or anxiety to name a few. We are looking to expand our team of content providers and increase the frequency and quality of new content.

Prayer Wall

We believe that prayer is a conversation with God and when we pray for others, we are inviting God into the hurt, pain, and hard times we all go through. A big new initiative from the Prayer Team was the development of an online prayer wall where anyone can submit prayer and praise items to be prayed over. This way, no matter where you are or what time it is, you can invite others to pray for you!

springvale.org/prayerwall

Community Outreach

Community Care

Our Community Care focuses on showing the love of Jesus to everyone through practical help. With the generosity from our church family we have supported families and individuals going through grief, loss, and illness with meals, counseling, financial aid, and lending a helping hand to do a number of acts of kindness. On the team are two ladies that collectively sent out over 110 cards of encouragement this year! Sometimes the simple actions provide the most timely support.

This year we also started a new initiative called the Thrifty Corner where we collect used clothing, small household items, diapers, formula, etc. to be distributed free of charge to anyone in our church, community, and even abroad to help those in need. This has been a wonderful way to regift and use the resources God has blessed us with.

"I received my winter package today...I was so overwhelmed with joy. From the bottom of my heart...I want to say thank you for being so kind to me."

— A Thrifty Corner Mom

Through the support of Springvale, Community Care has been meeting special needs like the Pregnancy Crisis Centre, Teen Challenge (addiction centres), Restore Canada, Prison Fellowship, providing hampers stocked with needed items for both local families as well as assisting some of the poorer communities in Hamilton. We also support a local children's charity that assists where OHIP doesn't cover all the expenses families are faced with in times of medical crisis. In total Community Care financially gifted approximately \$79,000 this year! Praise the Lord!



This summer we spent an exciting day as a team in Stouffville giving away free ice cream and engaging people in conversation about church, faith and God. We were very encouraged by the wonderful response we obtained from people in the park.



Fall Family Scavenger Hunt

We brought back this popular event for the second year in a row in Stouffville and Newmarket. The Stouffville location doubled in size. In total we had over 160 cars with 311 kids participating in this hunt around town!

Christmas Offering

In our third year of the Christmas Offering, we collected over \$62,000 to be sent out into the community to meet practical needs during a very challenging season. Our collective total over the last three years is over \$180,00 raised through this special offering.

- \$13,500 - Inn From the Cold - we sponsored a full month of the shelter at \$450/night
- \$15,001.45 - 360 Kids Hope Program
- \$10,000 - Operation Christmas Child - 250 shoeboxes with the Gospel
- \$11,870 - Richmond Hill Community Food Bank
- \$11,870 Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank

Family Day

This year, we ran different events in both Stouffville and Mount Albert during the February Family Day. In Stouffville, we rented 2 ice pads and provided free skating and shinny time for local families. We also partnered with Hillside Church in Mount Albert to run an afternoon of fun and games outside with giveaways!

- 250 People attended the Stouffville Event
- 300 People attended the Mount Albert Event

Soles4Souls

At Adventure Camp, we challenged our families to donate any slightly used footwear that we could donate to Soles4Souls who in turn, gifted them to people who need this basic item. By avoiding the landfill, these items help to provide relief to those in need, help to fight poverty in developing countries, and protect the planet. When we extended the campaign for the month of July a total of 1209 pairs of shoes were collected and redistributed!



Summer Kids Camps

In addition to our Adventure Camp, we ran three weeks of camps in partnership with Athletes in Action and Epic Onside. Each week, our campers took part in activities, built friendships, and developed new skills, all while learning about the love of Jesus!

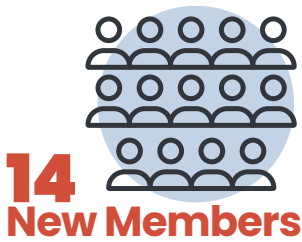
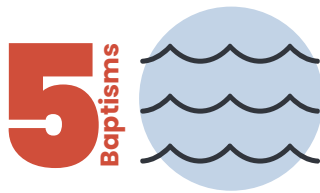
- AIA Sports Camps - total of 64 campers
- Epic Onside Art Camp - 70 campers
- Through these camps, 14 kids put their trust in Jesus!

The Big Give

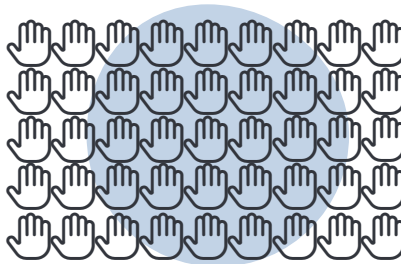
This was our second year running The Big Give! Throughout the month of April we challenged our church family to LOVE, GIVE, and SERVE our local community. This was done through practical acts of love with neighbours and coworkers, as well as collecting different items for local charities such as gift cards for gas and groceries, clothing, bedding and toiletries.

Over 120 people from the Springvale Family showed up to serve at different opportunities throughout the month. We were thrilled to be able to help out two local camps and clean-up some of the heavily littered areas in our communities;

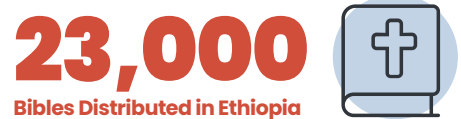
- Willow Grove Camp Clean-Up
- Willow Springs Camp Clean-Up
- Community Garbage Pick-Up
- City Street Outreach Collection Day at Springvale



Our Impact 21/22



120 Volunteers
during the Big Give



Ministry Spotlight



Springvale Kids

We had an amazing year in Springvale Kids! We returned to in-person teaching environments for preschool to Grade 5 on Sundays, no small task after two years of pandemic uncertainty. And we saw the return of Adventure Camp; a week jam packed with fun, experiments, songs, games and sharing the good news of Jesus!

- 198 Kids attended on Sundays
- 156 Springvale Kids Team Members
- 175 Adventure Camp Campers
- 43% of Adventure Camp were first-time campers!
- Welcomed 9 new babies
- 5 Grade 5 students did a Sunday class in preparation for Springvale Youth

"I cannot express enough how great it is to know that I can invite other parents to send their kids to events at Springvale and feel completely assured that they will be not only welcomed but in a safe and professional environment. These tiny seeds being planted in these kids that God loves them are just so critical."

— Jen, A Springvale Kids Parent



Springvale Youth

This year we kicked off a new ministry structure that combined both our Junior High and Senior High ministries on the same night. This allowed us to start a student worship team for the first time in over 8 years and we saw a buzz of having everyone together in the building on the same night. This program shift created more time for our leaders and students to develop strong relational bonds during the new unstructured portion of the nights.

We focused our teaching and small group time around our new discipleship structure that encouraged students to identify where they currently are and gave them easy next steps to take a step forward. We saw many baptisms take place because of this identification process.

Our biggest challenge was still figuring out what we could and could not do because of COVID-19 and providing space for students to feel comfortable with different perspectives on the pandemic.

“We came to this church for the youth ministry and are so thankful our kids are getting invested into by the leader and challenged spiritually each week while having a blast at youth”

— A Springvale Youth Parent

Young Adults

This past year for young adults was definitely a season of change and growth. We saw many of our YA's step up as leaders in kids and youth ministry and our greatest mission this past year was our GatherGTA worship nights. Most nights we saw numbers of about 100 YA's gathering to worship, learn, and grow in community. Additionally, in the summer we had some intentional hangout nights which provided opportunity for deeper relationships to happen.

Larissa is starting to connect with other Young Adult leaders in the area to grow the impact of our GatherGTA nights. We were also surprised and encouraged by our young adults who came back who haven't been to Springvale in a long time. It's been such a blessing to see how God has been developing a network of young adults who are passionate about seeing growth in the kingdom.



JOY

Our JOY (Just Older Youth) ministry seeks to help seniors of York Region to have regular opportunities to fellowship together in love and faith, be a support through adversity and a source of strong and enduring faith.

This year we welcomed Rod and Sharon Russell as JOY Coordinators who worked alongside the JOY Executive who serve faithfully with both skill and creativity. It was encouraging to see how happy people were to meet again after two years of COVID-19 restrictions.

The mainstay ministry of JOY is their monthly gatherings. It has been so good to see many return with on average 60 members attending. And for the highlight of the year, we had a Christmas concert with Mike Janzen and the Stouffville Christian School choir with over 100 attendees.

Regular newsletters and JOY prayer letters were also distributed to keep our people connected and up to date with news in the ministry.

We are eagerly anticipating a return to our monthly meals where we continue to encourage seniors to grow in their faith and personal ministry wherever they find themselves.

Life Groups

Our Springvale Life Groups continued to meet and develop new relationships, deepened old friendships, and walked with one another as they walked with God. Springvale Life Groups introduced several new initiatives including: The Prayer Warrior, Curriculum Selection Guideline and Life Group Covenants.

Springvale Life Groups saw:

- More than 90 people lead or take up serving roles in Life Groups (LG Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Prayer Warriors, and Hosts)
- 314 active Life Group members
- 32 Groups, including 3 new groups



Springvale Women

Springvale Women is a ministry that endeavours to engage and connect women of all ages in our church and community. We challenge women to seek God with determined purpose; to awaken a generation of women who really, authentically believe, what we say we believe - and are ready to live, transformed, for His Glory. We place an emphasis on prayer, study in Scripture and increasing bible literacy as well as developing relationships that encourage and uplift one another.

- **Revive Series** - "Signs Following" a 5-part series introducing our theme for the year with different speakers
- **Women in the Word** - we ran 4 studies this ministry year
- **MentHer Circles** - 1 in-person fall event
- **Psalms 40** - 2 in-person events

This year saw a few initiatives including;

- **Origins** - A 3-part series taught by Barb Hill on the history of faith and the Christian Church.
- **Beyond Hallmark** - This event featured a panel discussion with Pastor Ed and Crystal and was meant to discuss our expectations of marriage and how we can build stronger relationships and overcome disappointment of lost expectations.
- **Sister Social** - 2 in-person events focused on outreach and introducing people to Springvale. This is intended to be a gentle introduction to Springvale and allow women to invite anyone to attend, a neighbour, friend or co-worker just to get them in the door in a social environment.
- **Social Media Series on the Fruit of the Spirit** - "Coming Harvest" featuring 8 different speakers
- **Mid-day Prayer** on Facebook
- **40 Day Prayer Challenge**
- **Women's Monthly Prayer Meeting**



Sports

This was the year for sports! With limited options to participate in drop-in gym nights due to the pandemic, Springvale Sports saw a massive increase in participation from the community. Some highlights include:

- The development of a half-time team for delivering devotions during volleyball nights
- At volleyball we had 176 different participants
- Volleyball was so popular, that we needed to run two different sessions to keep up with demand and playing time
- At basketball we had 145 different participants
- The vast majority of volleyball and basketball participants do not regularly attend Springvale.

Worship

The heartbeat of Springvale Worship is to create a space where the church family can gather and worship God. It is a time for reflection, a time for commitment, a time for renewal and a time of thanksgiving. We strive to provide an environment where people can connect with God without distractions and prepare hearts to receive the fullness of the message, in-person and online. Here are some of our highlights!

- In order to provide a consistent sounding worship experience, regardless of the fluctuation in band members, we implemented the MultiTracks ecosystem this year. This system is designed to provide background instrumentals and allows our musicians to practice their given parts in isolation of the rest of the music.
- We doubled the number of Team Members by adding an additional 16 individuals!
- Christmas was a time of celebration, not only of the birth of Christ, but a time where many people returned to the in-person service.
- We hired a part-time Production Director to support the tech needs of the ministry.



Connections

Our Connections Team looks after our guests' first impression of us on a Sunday morning by making sure everyone is known and acknowledged. This year, the ministry continued to rebuild itself after the impact of the pandemic. This is the team that took on the added task of taking attendance (when it was required) while trying to greet and meet people.

- Our pre-service time as a team resumed in August after a 2.5 year hiatus (from March 2020). It was wonderful to start this back up again as we could come together and pray for the morning as a team. It was a step towards normalcy.
- We resumed our Welcome Desk in June and will be slowly increasing this ministry as the need builds.
- In May we experienced a storm that knocked out our power for several days. But on that Sunday, many people scrambled to make "church" happen in the Main Foyer. It was a powerful morning being in community together.

"One Sunday morning after service we had two families come to the desk at the same time. I was looking after one family while Dale Heywood looked after the other family. At one point we realized that both families were new immigrants from the same country - Nigeria! What an amazing event to witness! They both had young children - there were many similarities within these families. One of the families has been there faithfully every week since that first visit. Dale and I stood back in awe and watched God at work as these two families got to know each other!"

— Michelle Mackenzie
Connections Ministry Leader



Financially Generous

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

We are so blessed that we have a church family that is instinctively generous with the financial resources that God has entrusted to us. What the world values above all else, believers recognize that it all belongs to God first and foremost. This has been an amazing year with the distribution of finances to support those in need and the spreading of the Gospel.

TOTAL RAISED: \$2,430,061.64

- **\$1,848,707** given to General Offerings
- **\$143 in tithe** from Springvale Kids
- **\$49,511.64** raised for Community Care
- **\$3,660** raised for Haiti earthquake relief (continued from previous year)
- **\$203,887** raised for Ukraine Refugee Crisis
- **\$74,201** raised for Bibles for Ethiopia
- **\$57,259** raised for Future Facilities Fund
- **\$116,450** raised for Jamaica Teen Challenge
- **\$62,291** raised for the Christmas Offering
- **\$4,095** raised for the Big Give
- **\$156,919** dispersed through the Missions Committee
- **\$22,269** to support organizations (FEB Central, FEB National, CCCC, etc)



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