




CASCADES CHURCH



A church in the heart of Metro Vancouver
longing to see the city renewed as we
follow Jesus.



ABOUT CASCADES

OUR MISSION

We aim to help lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus and His Way.

OUR FOCUS

- To gather to worship
- To grow to become like Jesus
- To go on Jesus' mission



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

We are a church longing to see our city renewed as we follow Jesus Christ. Longing to see our city transformed. We believe God wants to renew not only us, not only our church, not only our city; He has come to renew all of His creation. We dream of seeing God's river of living water *cascade* down onto families, communities, our city and beyond. The river John tells us about is God's Spirit given to those who entrust themselves to Jesus (Jn. 7:39).

As it turns out, a river is a beautiful picture for the work of the Spirit (Jn 7:39). We want to be in that river—standing in His presence, being shaped by Him with His mission flowing in and through us.

This rivers' source comes from the very heart of God. So if we come into contact with it, we've come into contact with the Living God. It's in God's presence that we find life, purpose and forgiveness. Our gathering to worship on Sundays, Community Groups, times of prayer and reading of Scripture—these are about seeking His presence.

This river shapes the landscape all around it. A river is constantly nourishing, bringing growth along its banks, smoothing rough edges, carving out places of depth in our lives. The Spirit of God does this with specific intention. He seeks to shape us into people more like Christ—transforming our desires, renewing our minds, drawing us deeper into life with God and in God. Our Rule of Life and Genogram workshops, the Creative Way Down course(s) and the Anvil Retreat are oriented around this goal of becoming like Him.

Finally, this river doesn't stay in one place. It's constantly moving outward. In so doing, it brings life and vitality to dry, withered places. It pours out into new places. God has been doing this in us, too. Last year, we witnessed Gokhan stepping into the waters of baptism. The Lord led us to make room for people to explore questions of doubt, faith and Jesus through Alpha. We grew in generosity towards others supporting organizations that endeavour to love the marginalized, supporting the mission of the church and raising funds for the foyer renovation.

As we look back, I want to say "Thank you" for regularly embracing Jesus and His Way. Together, may we see more of this world watered and nurtured by the very Spirit of God.

Grace and peace,

Alex Perello,
Pastor



LETTER FROM THE WORSHIP DIRECTOR

"The Cascades Church worship ministry continues to focus on the importance of gathering as a corporate body of Christ and singing gospel-saturated songs of worship and adoration to God.

This past year, we have made additional efforts to grow the pool of worship team members and have been encouraged to have more people sharing their musical gifts and abilities at Cascades. Thank you to all who serve on our team!

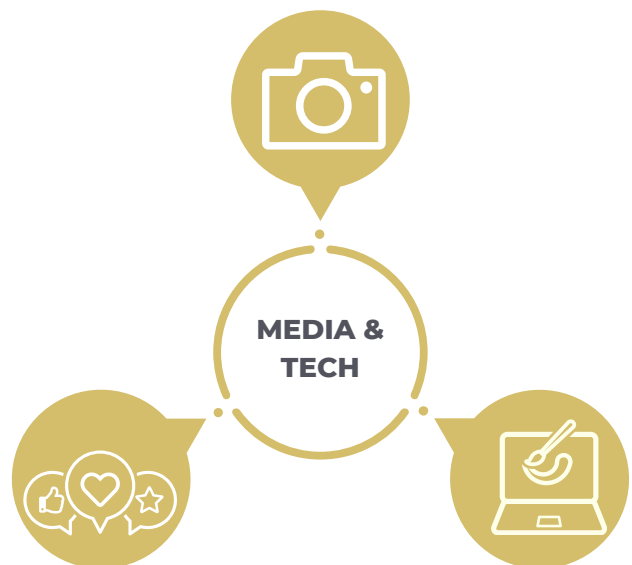
Our heart for this coming year is to magnify the Lord in our worship times and to have our hearts stirred by the Spirit dwelling within us as we proclaim the goodness of God. We look forward to worshipping together each Sunday and we also look forward to special times of worship at the Anvil Island retreat and other events.

Sarah Potheary,
Worship Director



Media & Tech

This past year, our worship and tech team has seen some changes—some folks have moved on and new people have stepped in to bring fresh energy and creativity. We are thankful for everyone who has served. From visuals to sound, they've helped us tell our story and point people to Jesus. Be sure to follow Cascades Church on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2025

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Church Staff



Alex Perello
Pastor/Elder



Sarah Potheary
Worship Director

Volunteers



Marsha Piechnik
Deacon & Board Chair



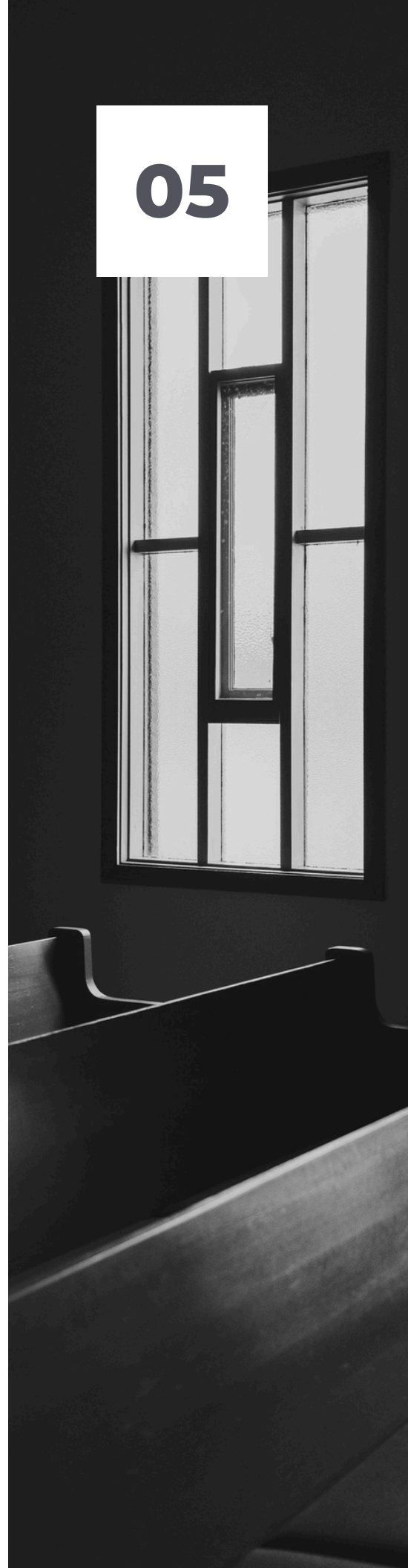
Joel Hagglund
Deacon & Treasurer



Matt Potheary
Deacon & Secretary



Board of Directors
Cascades Church





CHURCH & MINISTRY UPDATES

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Annual Church Retreat

Set against the beauty of Howe Sound, the Anvil Retreat was a weekend where longtime Cascaders and newcomers alike enjoyed rest and plenty of free time, shared meals together and worshiped at Chapel. Through Practicing the Way, we explored what it means and looks like to follow Jesus alongside others.

Alpha Course

This year, we returned to running Alpha in person, and it was the first year we ran it in partnership with The Garden Church, headed by our friend Pastor Brad Bruniski. We welcomed 12 guests into a space where they could encounter or go deeper with the Gospel and ask hard questions about life, faith and Jesus. It was a joy to see strangers become friends and even witness a couple of baptisms. We hope to make Alpha a regular rhythm at Cascades, creating room for more to meet Jesus.

Baptism

Baptism is a vital step of faith, and this year, we rejoiced as Gokhan took that step. Sharing his story, he spoke of finding peace, purpose and freedom from anxiety through Jesus' love. "This baptism symbolizes not just a new beginning for me but a profound thank you to all..." We celebrate God's work in his life and in our church!



Cascades Kids

This year, Cascades Kids grew from one class to two, and we're excited to add a third in September! We're grateful to all who have answered the call to help create a safe, joyful space where children can learn that Jesus knows and loves them. As we grow, we're seeking a Next Gen Director to lead and shape our vision for discipling our young Jesus-followers. Visit cascadeschurch.ca/career-opportunities to learn more.



Community Groups

Each of our five Community Groups is unique, but all are built on a foundation of prayer, deep relationships, Scripture and service. We're committed to helping everyone find a group this year because sharing joys, carrying burdens, seeking God through His Word and serving are things we're meant to do together. Visit cascadeschurch.ca/community-groups to learn more.



Daybreak Point Bible Camp (Anvil Island)

Cascades is one of 12 member churches supporting Daybreak, now into its 86th year of operation. The septic tank system was upgraded this fall and work will begin in 2025 to improve the barge ramp by the swim dock—both key precursors to the ongoing Dining Hall Replacement project. Their fundraising dinner will be held May 3, 2025. See Marsha for tickets.



Prayer Walks

Every Wednesday at noon, we walk and pray—faithfully seeking God's goodness for our community and city. Now neighbors have started joining us along the way. If you'd like to take part, meet us in the parking lot at noon, weather permitting.



Workshops & Courses

Crafting a Rule of Life

In April, 11 people joined us to explore how to build a “Rule of Life”—an intentional plan to align our habits and relationships with our deepest desire: to be with Jesus and become like Him. A key insight was that we already live by a rule, but it may not be serving us well.

Genogram Workshop

This workshop used a genogram—a visual tool to map family history across generations—to help participants identify patterns, understand their impact and take steps toward living out their God-given purpose. Content was drawn from *Emotionally Healthy Relationships*.

The Creative Way Down

Held in September and January, this course invited participants into weekly prayer reflections rooted in the Beatitudes. Joel H. reflected, “It’s the right amount of challenging mixed with being approachable... like a workout for the soul.”

Making Room Initiative

We Met Our Goal!

We are so excited to report that we have not only met, but surpassed, our goal in raising over \$100,000 towards our foyer renovation! We give God thanks for all the ways in which He’s continued to provide and for the ways in which you have responded to His leading! To learn more about the project, visit www.cascadeschurch.ca/making-room/.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

GLORIA & RONALD EDGECOMBE VILLA MARIA, ARGENTINA

SAFE ARRIVAL & SETTLING IN

The Lord graciously provided safe travels, and Ron managed the trip to Argentina well. His herniated disc is not causing pain, though his legs remain weak. It was a joy to reunite with our family and reconnect with friends, many of whom have visited or invited us over.

MINISTRY & CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Ron has a great helper in the caretaker's 17-year-old son, who has experienced a significant change in heart. His family's involvement in a local church has led to evident spiritual growth. Our home church warmly welcomed us back, and it is encouraging to see their faithfulness. Ron will be speaking there on the 15th and has other speaking commitments. We'll also assist at a children's camp where Ron will share his testimony on the theme of "Identity."

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Each year, we pray for more opportunities to share Christ with our dear friends who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus. Recently, a couple attributed an answered prayer to our intercession, and another friend continues to ask spiritual questions. Please pray for ongoing conversations.

CHALLENGES & GRATITUDE

The extreme heat, reaching up to 40°C, has been challenging, affecting our energy levels. Despite this, we are grateful for your generous support, prayers and encouragement. We miss you and pray for you always. Amid global turmoil, we trust in the Lord's faithfulness and sovereignty. Thank you for standing with us in this ministry. May the Lord bless you abundantly.

[Summarized]



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APRIL & BRAD BATES VANCOUVER, CANADA

"If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them."
– Luke 10:6

SEEK OUT THE PERSON OF PEACE

April met Alma just before moving into our neighborhood. This elderly, fiery Scot became our person of peace and one of the reasons we have loved living on this block radius. A few months before her passing this past Friday night, Alma made peace with Jesus. God's grace is truly profound—He loved Alma and continually pursued her. The Good Shepherd has found His beloved, lost sheep. We already miss Alma dearly and are reminded of this every day we walk past her old apartment, but we know that more people of peace are nearby. Please send a response sharing the person of peace in your neighborhood. We would love to join you in prayer.

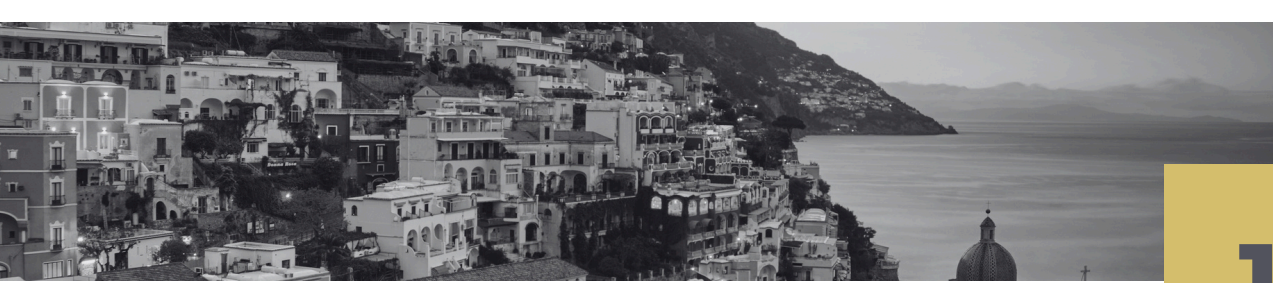
TITUS UPDATE

Two weeks ago, Jesus met Titus in a truly beautiful way. Thank you for praying for us and for Titus as he has faced several medical challenges. A positive change has occurred, and it feels as though our son is back—he has even started smiling again after three long months. We will share the full story in the coming weeks after a few more tests. Prayer truly works, and Jesus has amazed us.

WITH YOU

God is moving in remarkable ways. We hear stories of the lost seeking out believers to learn about Jesus. People are anxious and desperate to find peace in place of fear. I am truly honored to work alongside churches in their discipleship efforts. What an incredible time to be alive, witnessing the advancement of Jesus' kingdom.

[Summarized]



LOREDANA & JOE ANTIGNANI SALERNO, ITALY

BUILDING & STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH

Our focus has been on strengthening the church and reassuring new and occasional attendees. Interest in the Lord is growing among friends and contacts. We recently met a young man and his mother from California, part of a growing expat community in Salerno. They have invited us to their gatherings, providing an opportunity for ministry among North Americans moving to Italy.

LOREDANA'S MINISTRY WITH WOMEN

Loredana continues her work with women in the church, in our community and beyond. Many are discovering their worth in the Lord's eyes and seeking His purpose. Despite the challenges, the evident fruit of her ministry strengthens and encourages her.

LEADERSHIP & MENTORSHIP

Joe's work with church leaders has been rewarding. Years ago, we navigated ministry challenges alone, relying on distant supporters. Now, we mentor others through similar struggles, teaching them to trust the Lord's process. Leadership training is crucial in guiding the church to seek His kingdom first.

EVANGELISM & BAPTISM

We printed 1,000 evangelistic pamphlets, written by Loredana and designed by Celeste, for baptisms and outreach. The upcoming baptisms will be a blessing, with City Hall providing a hall free of charge. A former worship leader will return from northern Italy to lead worship. Four women will be baptized, with many unsaved relatives attending. Churches from Naples, Salerno, and Foggia will join us in celebration.

[Summarized]



WENDY & JURGEN SCHULZ **LA PAZ, BOLIVIA**

A NEW YEAR OF TRUST

A new year lies ahead, sustained by God's grace and mercy. We don't know what changes may come, but His promises are sure, and His presence unfailing. Take courage! It will be just as He said (Acts 27:25 NLT).

FROM PROMINENCE TO PRISON

Wendy visited high-profile political prisoners, including a former governor and a military commander, who are usually inaccessible. After Wendy prayed for an opportunity, a friendly guard granted permission for her visit. Wendy prayed for the two men, gave them books on the Gospel and left them with words of hope. Please pray that God would bring these men to Christ. Wendy also shared at a women's retreat in Cochabamba, where one woman said, "I came with my heart in a thousand pieces, but I'm going home strengthened and encouraged."

THE PRODIGAL RETURNS

A brother in Chile shared that his daughter, after two years of being away from God, began reading Jurgen's book on the prodigal son and returned home. Praise God! We also request prayer for Juan Elías, who lost a leg. Both he and his mother have professed faith.

DOCTRINAL MATTERS

Confusion over "extreme grace" stirred unrest in La Paz. Some misunderstood that works play no role in a believer's life. Jurgen has addressed this with the elders, and thankfully, the situation is calming.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- We are in Victoria until June due to government regulations. Please pray for guidance in our work here.
- Pray for new board members for the Christian school in Potosí.
- Please pray for Santiago, who is dealing with health issues.
- Pray for spiritual growth in Juan Elías and his mother.

[Summarized]



SHIRLEY & CARLOS VARGAS **LA PAZ, BOLIVIA (CURRENTLY SAANICHTON, BC)**

CARLOS' HEALTH & TRIP TO BOLIVIA

Carlos has received medical clearance from his oncologist to travel to Bolivia between treatments. We will be there to address legal matters, visit family including Carlos' mom, and reconnect with friends and co-workers. Please pray for our health, strength and discernment in managing our time wisely.

LOCAL PRAYER MINISTRY

We have been asked to encourage the prayer ministry within our home church, Saanichton Bible Fellowship. A newly prepared prayer room has created a welcoming space, and bi-monthly prayer meetings, along with after-service prayer ministry, are helping emphasize the importance of prayer. More initiatives are planned after our Bolivia trip. Shirley will also take part in a women's retreat before we leave and Carlos will receive an immune treatment the day before departure.

HOUSING & FAMILY NEWS

The house we share with Lucas and Jeremy remains on the market, but with no buyers yet, we remain content where we are. Meanwhile, we are overjoyed that Alex and Nana are expecting their first child in mid-February, and we are grateful for Nana's good health.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

This year has been one of significant change—medical treatments, deepening connections with our church and meaningful encounters with new and longtime friends. We have also had the joy of celebrating with Bolivian families who have immigrated to Victoria. Through it all, we marvel at God's care and goodness.

[Summarized]

GENEROSITY UPDATE

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Month-of-Generosity & Christmas Eve Offering

Thank you for demonstrating care and generosity by giving a combined total of **\$4,031.21** which was dispersed to six different Canadian ministries:

- Hope for Freedom
- Journey Home Community
- New Story Community
- The Pastorate
- Union Gospel Mission

Your generosity has helped ensure that:

- the poor and marginalized are provided shelter and addiction recovery;
- refugees coming to our city are given material, spiritual and social support;
- Indigenous women in Canada are equipped to see a new story written in their lives
- Canadian pastors are strengthened to lead resilient churches that shape the future of our nation;
- programs and services are provided for people experiencing poverty, homelessness and addiction.





We have made every effort to make the operations of our church clear and transparent. However, if you have any questions about the contents of this Annual Report or the Financial Report, please speak directly with a member of the Leadership Team or email Pastor Alex at alex@cascadeschurch.ca.

Thank You!

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at Cascades. Your faithful presence, prayers and commitment help to shape this community. We're deeply grateful for the way you've leaned in—whether by showing up, serving or simply walking alongside others in faith. We're excited to see what God does in the season ahead!



3833 Boundary Road, Vancouver, BC V5R 2M4



(604) 437-8924



www.cascadeschurch.ca

