

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

October 8, 2023

CrossLife

Contemporary Worship

Enters Its 21st Year

Before his retirement, Pastor Reinhardt had expressed the need to add a service that was less formal for those members who were hesitant to attend services in the Sanctuary. In 2000 the ARC was built to the glory of God to be used in ministry to the community. So, in 2003, Pastor Dave Lewis and several St. Paul's members attended a weekend workshop entitled *Natural Church Development* (NCD). Out of this workshop and the Long-Range Planning Committee's goal to establish a third alternative worship service to be held in the ARC, Pastor Dave Lewis and Pastor Kevin Kieschnick asked Bill Klein to coordinate the third worship service. He was to design a worship service using contemporary Christian music along with elements of liturgical worship with confession/absolution, communion, scripture reading, creeds, responsive readings, etc. The service was named *CrossLife* based on John 5:24.

A worship team, *Audience of One*, was formed, and they led the first contemporary worship service in the ARC on the first Sunday in November 2003. Attendance was 25-30 (including the 7-member band). Band members included Bill and Cathy Klein, Joey and Paige Cantrell, Karen Gaertner, Pauline Maas, Paula Brown, and in 2004, Jane Burrell, and A/V support was given by Rick Morgan and Jeff Morgan. Saturday setup took 3-4 hours to run audio and visual equipment across the gym and to set up a platform, video screen, and chairs for the worshippers. The love of the Lord instilled enthusiasm!



From 2003 through the pastoral vacancy in 2005-2006, growth was slow but continuous, and the attendance averaged 40-50 worshippers. With the calling of Pastor Eddie Scheler as our pastor in 2006 brought our first keyboardist to the worship band, Tricia Scheler. In the summer of 2007, the first ARC renovation project took place that included a larger platform/altar area, a wall-mounted projector, a permanent screen, storage closets, an altar area with carpeting, and additional partitions for enclosure and sound dampening, after all, it is a gym!

All funds were raised outside of budget on a pay-as-you-go basis. Jerry Alldredge and Rick Morgan designed and constructed from wood the platform, the lectern, baptismal fount, cabinetry, and the altar so that all could be stowed away during the week. Rebecca Mitchell designed the ceiling banners and sound platforms to reflect the contemporary setting, and worship band members made and installed them as well as painted the dark navy background behind the platform. Audrey Hamm organized setup teams for chairs and tables that still needed to be put in place and taken down each Sunday for gym activities during the week. This project reduced setup time to 2 hours and greatly enhanced the worship experience. In 2013 Paul Colba aided in the addition of a walk-draw curtain to encircle the worship platform during the week, and he and Bill Klein constructed a permanent sound booth which greatly reduced the weekly setup to only chairs and tables.

To the glory of our gracious God, under Bill Klein's gifted worship leadership and the dedication of *Audience of One*, this worship ministry blessed scores of families and individuals in worship and praise to our Savior. CrossLife went into the community for worship on occasion including Rhodes Ferry Park on the river and at Point Mallard Park. There was continued growth in CrossLife attendance averaging 79-111 from 2007-2012, matching the average attendance for 8:15 and 10:45 worship in the Sanctuary, truly serving as a 3rd worship service for the congregation. Other band members were added as others left to include Andrew Poe, Christen Bradley, Paul Colba, and Selena Salgado, A/V techs included Jacob Cantrell and Jacob Morgan, as well as others who also served in *Audience of One* and those who continue to serve behind the scenes. Jane Burrell continues to ensure a worshipful setting with décor.

After Bill Klein retired from leading worship, newly-called Pastor Kretzschmar felt it vital to continue the CrossLife worship ministry and became its new worship leader, guitarist, and vocalist. Christen Bradley remained as drummer and Steve O'Shea joined the worship band on guitar; several students from Oakwood College as well as Laura Frasher Tuttle and Mark Blaske have served as keyboardists. Nikki, Kody, and Ty Asher facilitated setup and takedown from 2018-2024. During the pandemic in 2020-2021, Pastor and the band determinedly led the continuance of worship during our drive-in service aided by the elders and other volunteers. Currently, Tim Herfurth and James Gilchrist arrange for rotating volunteers for A/V and host family serving opportunities, and the elders oversee the setup.

CrossLife worship hosts the Children's Christmas program, and Preschool Graduations, Thanksgiving and Christmas programs, and Afterschool KTT and previous Boys & Girls Club programs, Vacation Bible School, and even Voters meetings and special church-wide gatherings have utilized the stage and A/V. To God be the Glory!