

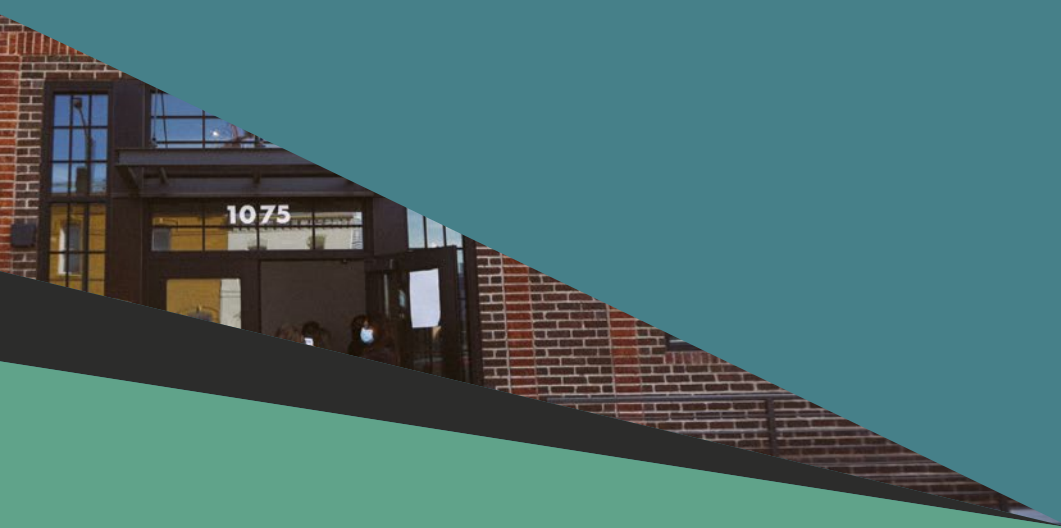


Annual Report

2020-2021



PARK CHURCH



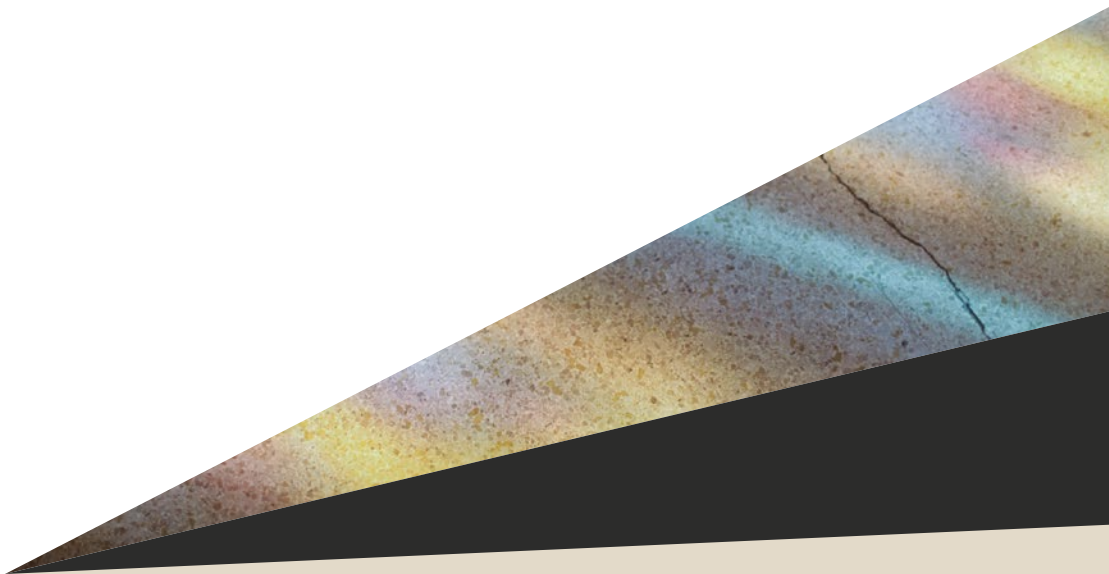
We exist to make disciples
of Jesus for the glory of God
and the joy of all people.



PARK CHURCH

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Welcome | 3 |
| Eldership Updates | 6 |
| Family Ministry | 5 |
| Park Church Downtown | 8 |
| New Ministry Partners | 10 |
| Park College | 11 |
| Gospel Communities | 12 |
| Finances | 14 |



Welcome

Park Church Family,

Do you feel it? The crisp mornings, the earlier sunset, and the turning of the aspen leaves all signal a welcome change of seasons. I love all of Colorado's seasons, but Fall is definitely my favorite. Fall means hot soups, cozy fires, Broncos football, and the hope of snow!

The changing seasons reminds me of the famous line from the preacher of Ecclesiastes, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I can't help but feel the seasons shifting in our culture as well. It may not be a linear shift, but times are changing. Over the past eighteen months, we've walked through a hard season. I don't need to itemize the challenges... we were all there. Challenging seasons have a way of pruning us and preparing us for new growth in the days to come. This has always been God's pattern for renewing the life of His people, and it gets me excited about what He's doing in our community.

Even in a year marked with challenges, we saw God's hand at work maturing our faith, increasing our love for him, growing our grace toward one another, transforming lives, multiplying our presence in the city, and renewing our heart for His mission.

It's that last piece about His mission that we want to give special attention to in the coming year. As we continue the work of regathering as a church, we want to keep our eyes on the mission that God has given us. How can we grow in the ways that we love our neighbors? How can we practically seek the welfare of Denver? What opportunities might Jesus give each of us to share the good news of His Kingdom with our friends in the city? And what doors of opportunity might God be opening before us through the challenges of this season?

Mark Sayers said "crisis is the gateway to renewal." My heart resonates with that image, and I think God has been tilling the soil for a beautiful work of renewal that He wants to do in us and through us.

So let's thank God for His faithfulness to us in challenging times, and let's look with hope to the future. After all, Jesus prepared us for times like these when he said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

With gratitude and hope,



Gary McQuinn

On behalf of the elders and staff of Park Church



Eldership Updates

This May, we had the opportunity to install eight new elders to help shepherd Park Church: Chris Gillespie, Matt Hand, Richard Lawrence, Neil Long, Josh Saenz, Brent Summers, Miguel Warren Jr., and Nick Wolverton. We're grateful for the addition of their leadership in our church.

Additionally, in April of 2021, we updated our elder structure and bylaws to better equip us for multi-congregational shepherding and continued growth. This bylaw update was a significant undertaking, executed over many months with carefulness and prayer. One of the main updates that emerged from this time was a restructuring of eldership, outlined as follows.

CONGREGATIONAL ELDERS

All elders of Park Church are “congregational elders” and are called to provide spiritual oversight and pastoral care for a particular congregation.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each elder (and sometimes a pair of elders) is commissioned to provide care and oversight for a particular set of members in a particular congregation, typically organized by regional groups of Gospel Communities.

Pastoral care and oversight means that elders are called to:

1. **Know** the Church, both its individual members and its corporate state.
2. **Feed** the Church with God's Word through preaching, teaching, pastoral care & counseling.
3. **Lead** the Church with godly character and spiritual guidance.
4. **Protect** the Church from false teaching, unrepentant sin, and other spiritual threats to their souls and the mission of the church.

GOVERNING ELDERS

The Governing Elder Team is comprised of the Lead Pastor and a group of non-staff elders who are nominated, vetted, and voted in by the other Congregational Elders. The Executive Pastor is a non-voting member.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Governing Elders of Park Church provide organizational and financial oversight for the church, and spiritual care for the Lead Pastor (and other senior staff leadership). The Governing

Elders make up the Board of Trustees who provide ultimate accountability for the business operations and liabilities of the 501(c)3 organization known as Park Church.

ACCORDINGLY, THE GOVERNING ELDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- 1. Finance and Compensation:** They oversee the Park Church annual budget, advise staff leadership on spending patterns, and approve/deny all major financial decisions including senior staff compensation, benefits, and capital investments.
- 2. Human Resources:** They work with the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor on the annual staffing plan, senior staff evaluations, promotion, and (if necessary) the dismissal of Park Church employees.
- 3. Directional Oversight:** they provide feedback and accountability to the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor in processing the future vision of the church.
- 4. Spiritual Care and Oversight of senior staff leadership:** They provide spiritual care and oversight for the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor.
- 5. Other responsibilities:**
 - Sabbatical Planning and Budgeting
 - Super-Majority Vote of approval for hiring, compensation, promotion, demotion, or termination of direct reports of the Lead Pastor.



Family Ministry

Family Ministry has had an exciting year. Our aim is to meet families where they are and partner with them to keep Jesus central in the everyday moments of life. This has remained our goal, both when we've had to do ministry online and when we've been able to offer in-person options. We see each unique moment as an opportunity for kingdom work to be done in homes and in the church. While this year has been unique, the opportunity to press in and grow has opened up doors we wouldn't have imagined.



Park Kids exists to create fun experiences for children to learn about Jesus.

When in-person classes were not available last year, the Park Kids Team provided wonderful videos to engage kids with the Gospel at home before reopening in-person classes in February. Additionally, through the opening of Park Church Downtown, Park Kids opened four new classrooms in March and welcomed Hope Kadlecek as our Park Kids Coordinator. Each week, Park Kids has continued to welcome more and more children back into the classroom.

Park Kids engaged our community this year through the Daddy Daughter Dance, Mother Son Scavenger Hunt, and Park Kids Club (formerly known as Neighborhood VBS). These events are intentionally designed to proclaim Jesus and reach beyond the doors of Park Church. All Park Kids has done, this year and every year, is only possible through the service of our incredible Park Kids Team, volunteering their time to ensure that kids hear the Gospel each week through fun and exciting experiences.

PARK KIDS STORIES

As a Park Kids team member, I have the joy and privilege of being one in the circle of five–seven adult Christians that a child needs in their formative years to grow confident and mature in his or her faith. My role in Park Kids has also strengthened my own faith—I'm hearing the Gospel in its simplest form right along with the children I serve! It's one of the most worthwhile ways I can spend my time each week: sharing with these children that Jesus loves me and loves each of them more than we can fathom, and that He died to give us freedom and peace.

Also, spending time with a group of children reminds me that God asks me to mirror the awe and trust they show towards God (and authority figures) in my own relationship with Him. And lastly, when I, by God's strength, show grace and patience and kindness in the classroom, it is because Jesus first showed grace and patience and kindness to me.

Paul and Sarah Bruss, Park Team Members

PARK KIDS STORIES (CONTINUED)

This summer was my first experience volunteering for Park Kids Club. Over three days, kids in our church were able to learn about and worship Christ in an intimate and fun way. As a leader I enjoyed every minute of it. Melanie, Kaitlin and the rest of the team truly created an environment where volunteers could thrive and share the truth of the gospel.

During my time I was able to see God move in kids' hearts. Through our discussions it was amazing to see the truth of Scripture; the Gospel is simple enough for a child to understand. Children left with not only knowledge of an Old Testament story but also with the truth that Christ gave Himself for sinners. He is the one who delivers us from the Father's judgment and gives us eternal life. It is by Him that we are saved... no other means.

Christian Bitar, Lead Teacher



Park Students

Park Students exists to raise up a generation of Christ-centered disciples who will have authentic relationships with God, with each other, and with the world.

Park Students (formerly Park Teens) has experienced some exciting growth this past year! We welcomed Luke Chow as our Director of Park Students and merged with Grace City Youth Group when Park Church Downtown was formed in March.

Throughout the 2020–2021 school year, students met together on Sundays during the 11am Highlands service. This summer, we began meeting on Sunday evenings to play games, dive into Psalms, and break out into small groups, while Summer Blast added Thursday events all around the city. Lastly, our students also had a blast at summer camp.

Now that the new school year has started, we're meeting on Wednesday evenings in the Highlands. Students are studying the book of Luke, playing games, eating together, and meeting in small groups. Our Park Students team is committed to serving our students and missionally engaging our surrounding community.

PARK STUDENTS STORIES

As a new member of Park Church and new resident of the Denver area, I was seeking ways to get involved in serving the church and community. I had heard of the recent developments in Park's student ministry and was curious. In combination with a longing to see God's restoration in today's middle and high school students, the Holy Spirit tugged on my heart to volunteer with Park Students. After hearing Luke Chow's story and missional vision for the students, I was bought in right away!

We immediately had the unique problem of having more volunteers than students, so the need for missional outreach became both necessary and an intriguing aspect of what God might be doing here. I have learned that Luke also values investing in students who are already involved, so that (hopefully) they will reach the

people around them, bringing them into the fold of Park Students, hence this year's theme: Better Together. This vision has continued to encourage me as I attend weekly Park Students gatherings.

We have been studying the Gospel of Luke with the intention of helping students better understand the love, holiness and compassion of Jesus. Each week it is encouraging to watch our students engage and be curious about God's Word. I am honored to be a part of God's plan here for the students at Park. I look forward to trying my best to love these mini-adults to the best of my ability.

Madelynne Starbeck, Park Students Team Member

The youth ministry at my local church was transformative to me during my teenage years. In the 15 years since I graduated high school, it's the leaders who gave of their own time and resources to invest in and pray for me whom I remember most. It was through their investment in my life that God displayed His pursuit of me. It's also why I have such a passion for youth ministry today.



In the three-plus years I've been involved with Park Students, we've undergone tremendous change, but it's been unreal to see how quickly the culture has taken shape under Kaitlin and Luke. In a short time, God has moved in big ways with Park Students. The youth are active, engaged and inclusive; they ask difficult questions, show discernment and help each other grow.

My prayer for Park Students is that God continues to show Himself faithful in our ministry as it grows in the coming years, and that He prepares our hearts with the same patience and graciousness the leaders who invested in me showed."

Zach Kinder, Park Students Team Member

Overall, Family Ministry considers it a joy and a privilege to partner with families. We look forward to another year of following God's leading in whatever opportunities present themselves.





PARK CHURCH DOWNTOWN

In March, we took a significant step in the implementation of our 10-Year Vision by launching a second congregation of Park Church in downtown Denver. We merged with Grace City Church and began meeting in the Asterisk events space at the corner of Park Avenue and Broadway. Park Church Downtown quickly stabilized around 150–200 regular attenders each Sunday, with new guests coming each week. Park Kids, Park Church Music, Boiler Room prayer, and other ministries of Park are growing under local leadership in this new locale.

This Fall, the Downtown congregation launched 11 new Gospel Communities and formed a new tutoring/support partnership with University Prep Elementary, one block away from Asterisk. This is in addition to existing partnerships inherited from Grace City Church: the Saint Francis Center and the Denver Rescue Mission. We continue to build relationships in our neighborhood, praying over our neighbors, and seeking additional inroads for bringing the love, justice, and compassion of Jesus to all kinds of people.

PARK CHURCH DOWNTOWN STORIES

My family and I had been attending Grace City Church for about 15 years prior to the Park Church merger. We had been consistently and faithfully hoping for the Lord to grow our church how He desires to, and for many years we were left wondering what His plans were for us, and where He had us serving His Kingdom.

Through many years of prayer and waiting, the Lord showed us very clearly that He had plans for Grace City Church to move Downtown, only to be quickly pivoted into a remote environment due to COVID-19. This stirred up even more questions and confusion, and—sure enough—doubts as to whether or not we were on the right track to serve His purposes where we were at. The Park Church merger not only resolved these concerns, but also accelerated the mutual and complementary visions between Grace and Park. It became very apparent that He had been laying the groundwork for this opportunity years ahead of time for us to come together, in such a time, place, and purpose as this.

We could not be happier to be a part of the Park Church family, and are excited to see what God continues to do in and through us!

Mike Ross

News of Park Downtown felt like an opportunity to serve our city differently. In many ways, church had become a too-safe place for me, a place where I had grown consumeristic and lazy. Being Downtown has called me out of that space to experience Jesus as true to His word:

“...the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.” **(Matthew 11:5 ESV)**

The challenge to me in that has been a call to tangibly bear that witness. To touch the leper, to bring healing to the wounded, to welcome the poor to hear the good news of the Gospel. Stepping into that is the life Jesus has called us to and it is rich.

Becca Edlund



New Missions Partners

NATALIE BADOUR: F.L.Y.

Fully Liberated Youth (F.L.Y.) seeks to restore dignity and foster secure attachments with incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and high-risk young people through redemptive and restorative relationships that are focused on healing, mercy, mutuality, tenderness, and kinship.



UPDATE FROM NATALIE

F.L.Y. was birthed out of a lot of grief and a lot of hope. Just before F.L.Y.'s recent, official launch in July of 2021, we had a young man (whom we had been in relationship with for years) shot and killed by the police. This was not our first loss, and we know it will not be our last. This young man's death and the many others we've lost continue to propel us and have created a community of restoration. In response to this tragedy, we created a community grief and loss group. We've since seen this young man's friends and family dedicate themselves to the mission and heart of F.L.Y.

We would not be in these spaces if it were not for our young people and their families. They have deeply changed our lives. The young people we have lost throughout the years have become our cloud of witnesses, our drive for a healed world: A world in which our young people are not demonized, where cycles of poverty, gang activity, incarceration, and abuse are broken. A liberated world in which our racially oppressive system is transformed. This young man's life has and will continue to live through us, through F.L.Y., and through the mission of creating a just and equitable world—the one which God intended.

HANNA SISE: AVANCE ESPAÑA

Hanna recently joined Avance España, based out of Granada. Avance España exists to serve under and alongside local leadership, congregations, and ministries in Spain. In Granada, their team members serve through partner ministries in local churches, university ministries, English clubs, social outreach, sports, and art.



UPDATE FROM HANNA

As I write this, I am celebrating four months living in Spain. These months have been some of the hardest of my life, yet they have pushed me to rely on and know God in a way that I have not had to before. Already, I have witnessed a demonic manifestation in a 15 year old girl and heard of another, BUT I also witnessed the acceptance of Christ in two teenagers. Because of Spain's bloody history, the cross is a sign of oppression and death. Hovering over the immaculate beauty of this country is a tangible darkness—but rest assured the light is breaking through (John 1:5)!

Beneath the struggles of navigating a new country, culture, and loneliness, I have an incredible peace that I have been called here for a purpose. God is so graciously sharing His heart for the Spanish people with me.

¡Gracias a Dios por esperanza y salvación!





Park College

Park College exists to help students know the love of Christ and walk with Him for a lifetime.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2016, Park Church has invested in college campus ministries as a main thrust of our local evangelism strategy. Through a long partnership with Campus Outreach, we have supported many campus missionaries in several of the ways we support our full-time Park Church staff members. We know many of you have also partnered with these men and women in their work for the Gospel at UNC, DU, School of Mines, and Regis University.

In 2021, we made a significant change in how we do campus ministry by bringing this outreach in-house as **Park College**. Park College has two main focuses:

- 1. Connecting students to the local church.** This effort is not to replace the important role of campus ministries in the lives of students, but to help students also be a part of a larger body of believers while in college. We believe that a focused, student-specific community and a broader church community are equally beneficial in these formative years.
- 2. Building relationships with existing college ministries for collaborative outreach.** Local churches and campus ministry organizations both have strengths and weaknesses in relationship to reaching college students. Park College will seek to be a resource campus ministries while also being resourced by them.

UPDATE FROM YEAR ONE

The past year of ministry on the college campus has been marked by the realities of life in a COVID world. But God, being true to His word, has kept His people near. In the midst of shutdowns, a loss of access to the campus, and significant changes to our ministry structure, we are seeing college students follow Jesus. More than ever, our team feels that our work is more than worth our time, efforts, and pleading prayers to press on.

Our hope is for the world to look more like God's Kingdom through Christ's work in true discipleship. As a team, we are laboring on campuses in the Denver area and creating space for college students to invest in their spiritual lives. We are hopeful and expectant of all of the good things God will do in and through us through the rest of this year!

A PARK COLLEGE STORY

Park college impacted my college years by giving my feet a place to land spiritually. I was just becoming a Christian when I first walked onto campus my freshman year and I was immediately swept up into a discipleship dynamic that showed me what it looked like to abide. For the first time in my life, I was noticing that I was chosen, not only by Jesus, but also by this striking community. Looking back, I learned some of the most foundational truths about Scripture, myself, and the world, through Park College and through those lasting friendships.

Kari Langford, DU class of 2021



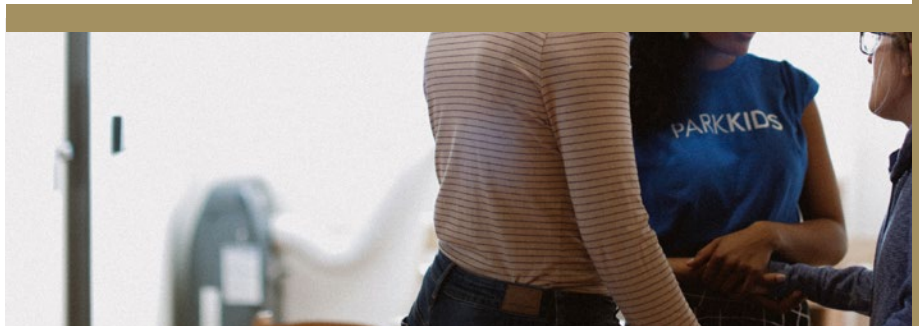
Gospel Communities

The aim for our small groups, called Gospel Communities, is to pursue Christ and live out the Gospel by sharing life together, strengthening one another, and living sacrificially.

There is no doubt that we have pressed into this goal more than ever over the last year. During this time, Gospel Communities had to weather the storm of the pandemic and make adjustments to persist in community. But God has been faithful.

Gospel Community Coaches

This is a new layer of leadership that provides support and care for our Gospel Community leaders. We're excited to have commissioned 11 Gospel Community coaches as we launched this resource.



New Gospel Communities at Both Congregations

Although some Gospel Communities made the hard decision to stop meeting this year, new groups have continued to be planted throughout the Denver metro area. When we launched Park Church Downtown in March 2021, one of our goals was to have groups representing both congregations. By God's grace, we now have over 40 groups across both congregations actively engaging in discipleship. Of the 40 plus groups, 10 are connected to the Downtown congregation.

It is exciting to see people answer the call of Gospel Community leadership, multiplying opportunities for discipleship and Gospel impact in the Denver area. It is a joy and honor to celebrate our Gospel Communities as they continue to make disciples of Jesus for the glory of God and the joy of all people.

A GOSPEL COMMUNITY STORY

The Lord has been moving powerfully in our group this year. A new member (new within the last couple of months) sent us the following about our group, "There is an overt sense of belonging in our group... a strength of connection to the point where it spills out regularly beyond our Wednesday gatherings."

This year, our Gospel Community has nearly doubled in size—we cannot stop growing. The Lord has brought together a diverse group of brand new believers and matured believers of various ages, life stages, and cultural backgrounds. We have seen the Lord provide for group members' physical needs through the community, restore several familial relationships through our prayers, heal broken bodies and strengthen emotional health, and even bring two couples together in marriage. Truly Jesus loves and uses the local church, and we are thankful that we get to be a part of what he is doing here in Lakewood.

Caleb and Amy Stewart, Gospel Community Leaders

Finances

FISCAL YEAR: AUGUST 2020-JULY 2021

Thank you for the way you have supported the ministry of Park Church over the last year. Even during a pandemic, years of faithful generosity in our community put us in the position during this fiscal year to step out in faith and launch a second congregation, Park Church Downtown, while continuing all of the work God has called us to.

Below you will find our giving and spending from fiscal year August 2020-July 2021, including some short descriptions of each line.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: \$2,393,851

Total giving figures from August 1, 2020-July 31-2021.

TOTAL SPENDING: \$2,411,936

Personnel: \$1,605,657

This includes but is not limited to wages and salaries for all staff and benefits for full-time staff.

Ministry Expenses: \$266,995

This includes but is not limited to expenses incurred by Park Church departments like Park Kids, Park Students, Park Families, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Classes, Gospel Communities, and Care and Counseling Ministries.

Facilities & Operations: \$221,809

This includes but is not limited to our mortgage, rent, insurances, utilities, and office supplies.

Missions & Church Planting: \$317,475

This includes but is not limited to the support of our church planting partners, overseas missionary partners, local ministry partners, and local outreach initiatives.

NET DIFFERENCE: -\$18,085

This fiscal year's higher expenses were primarily a result of the merger with Grace City Church and the costs associated with bringing our churches together to create Park Church Downtown.





PARK CHURCH

