



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

GURNEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

4555 Old Grand Avenue

Gurnee, Il 60031-2621

**It is the mission of this church to lead people
to a growing faith in Jesus Christ.**

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- **Congregational Meetings:**
 - **08/20/17**
 - **06/10/18**

Gurnee Community Church

Mission Statement

It is the mission of this church to lead people to a growing faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Values

Serving Gurnee and beyond with the love of Christ

At Gurnee Community Church, we value searching out, discovering, and ministering to physical, emotional and spiritual needs among people of all cultures and generations, first locally and then beyond, giving everyone the opportunity to encounter Christ and His Gospel, through our open doors, compassionate hands-on service, and the sacrificial use of our spiritual gifts and resources.

Growing in Christ by nurturing one another

At Gurnee Community Church, we value encouraging, equipping, and ministering to one another, regardless of where one is on their spiritual journey, as we grow to become mature disciples – developing a Christ-like character and an intimate relationship with God – through both shared and personal spiritual disciplines including worship, prayer, Bible study, community, evangelism, service and stewardship.

Worshiping God in all that we do

At Gurnee Community Church, we value engaging and inspiring all who enter here, regardless of age or background, to actively and regularly worship God, both collectively and individually, as followers of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit, primarily through biblical teaching, prayer, the sacraments, and expressions of praise.

Introduction

As we bring the 2017-2018 fiscal year to a close, we are once again able to reflect back with a grateful heart for all God has done among and through us as a church.

The 2017-2018 fiscal year was another year of relative stability in our leadership team. With this stable team experienced leaders, we have continued to aggressively pursue a set of strategies that were developed during the previous year. These 5 Strategies capture the essence of our culture as a church, and they also outline for our leadership team those areas of ministry where we desire to put our attention and resources. Those 5 Strategies are as follows: (Note: Each of these strategies is phrased as if the intended outcome of the strategy has already been achieved)

Strategy #1 - A focus on prayer, worship and the Bible

Each of us is collectively and individually engaged in authentic prayer, God-glorifying worship, and transformative biblical learning.

Strategy #2 - A deliberate focus on children, youth and seniors

We have created engaging growth environments for children, youth, families and seniors that are generation-specific in audience yet intergenerational in approach.

Strategy #3 - Systems for moving people into groups and serving

We have sustainable systems that move each of us into groups and serving opportunities.

Strategy #4 - Growth and care through group life

Each of us is an integral part of at least one group where we give and receive care and encouragement in our spiritual growth.

Strategy #5 - Ministry and evangelism through serving

Each of us is equipped and exercising our spiritual gifts for gospel centered evangelical service to our church and community.

Although there is still much work to be done in each of these areas, these strategies have kept us focused as a leadership team in the direction that God is leading.

The following reports represent a brief summary of the activities in ministry areas and by the specific ministry leaders. The intent was to be as brief as possible while still giving an informative review of the last 12 months.

In His Service,

Pastor Chris

Chris Stephens, Senior Pastor

- The biggest personal achievement and change that took place for me this past fiscal year was the development of a “Sermon Prep Team.” This began during the Summer of 2017 and is ongoing. This group meets weekly to discuss the content, structure and delivery of the upcoming sermons. This has revolutionized my weekly cycle of preparation (for the better!), and produces a weekly message that was a collaborative effort rather than a solo project.
- Organizational and Personnel Changes this year:
 - As commented above, this has been a very stable year for our team of leaders, but there were still some transitions and changes.
 - Tricia Elsbury ended her term as part of our Board of Elders at the end of this fiscal year.
 - Steve Saunders and Amy Gibes joined the Board of Elders at the beginning of the fiscal year, and Gary Miller joined as we transitioned into the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
 - Phil Rosborough started as Director of Stewardship at the beginning of the fiscal year.
 - Charlie Quint transitioned out of her role as Director of Church Connections mid-year, and Dave Ulrich joined the team in that role.
 - Diana Killian transitioned out of her role as the Director of Congregational Care mid-year. That position remained unfilled at this point.
- Prepared and officiated the Ordination of Paul Kattner in the Fall of 2017
- Compiled the **Annual Report**, consisting of summary reports from each of the Directors
- Planning for **Thanksgiving Dinner** and surrounding activities
- Planning for **Christmas Eve** services and surrounding activities
- Along with the team of Directors, developed a **budget** and proposed to the Board of Elders. Worked with the Board of Elders to finalize a proposed budget to present to the congregation. This year this process was driven almost entirely by our Director of Stewardship, Phil Rosborough, which has been a goal for a long time.
- Took a 4-Sunday preaching break during the summer of 2017. This was one of the outcomes of the Pastoral Renewal Leave that took during the summer of 2015. This allows me to catch up on other leadership responsibilities and plan more effectively for the future. Because of other scheduling conflicts, the preaching break for Summer 2018 is only 3 Sundays.
- Attended the ReThink Leadership Conference in Atlanta for the third year in a row. This continues to be a great conference and also an opportunity for Pastor Brian and I to spend some focused time together.
- Development of **sermon series** and ongoing preparation of weekly sermons. The sermon series for this past fiscal year have been:
 - What the World Needs Now (1 John) - May 21 - September 3, 2017
 - Mr. Misunderstood (Parable of Jesus) - September 10 - November 26, 2017
 - Home for Christmas (Advent) - December 3 -24, 2017
 - Remembering God is Good when Life Isn't (Psalms) - Dec 31, 2017 - February 11, 2018
 - Chosen (History of Israel / Lent) - February 18 - April 1, 2018
 - BLESS (Relational Evangelism) - April 8 - May 13, 2018
 - #Adulting (1 Corinthians, part 1) - May 20 - September 2, 2018

Brian Walter, Associate Pastor

- Facilitated games for the students that attended our Vacation Bible Xtreme
- Helped plan and promote men's BBQ and Dad's That Make a Difference with Ronn Read from Man in the Mirror
- Helped facilitate our confirmation program by serving at Feed My Starving Children, visiting a Messianic Jewish Service, and teaching, as well as overseeing volunteer mentors for 2017 class. Assisted in planning the Confirmation Sunday with a very successful new format - 8 students joined the church: Lucas Guagliardo, Margaret Herberger, Terra Herberger, John Gibes, Jonny Hooten, Lincoln Scherer, Caden Sheahan, and Nicole Ulrich. I also had the privilege to baptize Jonny Hooten, Lincoln Scherer, and Caden Sheahan.
- Worked with Chris Russell on rebranding, promoting, and planning fall kickoff and sign up for Life Groups (formerly small groups)
- Worked with Nikki Behler and Paul Kattner to plan and promote fall kick off for adult ministries including Life Groups, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Men's studies, and Women's studies
- Worked alongside Tony Guagliardo to promote and plan men's Beast Feast event at Pastor Chris' house
- Completed yearly reviews for all direct reports.
- Assisted in planning and promoting Beth Moore Simulcast with over 40 women in attendance
- Assisted with the planning, setting up, and running of the ministry fair at the outdoor service and picnic
- Planned, promoted and led Men's Adventure Trip to Expeditions Unlimited with 7 guys in attendance
- Assisted promoting Life Group sign ups with Chris Russell with 30 people signed up for life groups
- Put together a final proposal for fall 2018 Pastoral renewal leave to submit to the elders and met with the elders to review and received approval for proposal.
- Participated in the Kenya Mission Trip October 24th - November 5th
- Participated in the planning, promoting, and assisted in implementing of the No Regrets Men's Conference with
- Attended Thanksgiving at GCC & assisted in officiating a service for the recruits
- Promoted and planned a fall 2018 Holy Land trip with 23 participants
- Kicked off Confirmation with one student this year: Andrea Velez
- Attended the Council of the Vicinage for Paul Kattner on Jan 7th and participated in the ordination service for Paul Kattner on January 14th
- Assisted in organizing and promoting Couples Concert and Date
- Met with Mike Gerhard as my spiritual director in preparation for Pastoral Renewal Leave in the fall
- Promoted and facilitated a marriage series called *Staying in Love* with 12 participants
- Taught a 8 week section of the Doctrines of the Faith class
- Participated in an excellent staff and elders retreat focusing on prayer
- Assisted in team building and preparation of the 2018 Panama Mission team
- Taught Church History segment for the 2018 Confirmation student and mentor as well as attending Adat Hatikvah Synagogue together

- Assisted as part of the team for the Good Friday Experience
- Participated in the organization and implementing of the Panama Mission Dinner
- Attended the Orange Conference with Pastor Chris in Atlanta
- Planned, promoted, and taught 1 Day to Understanding the Bible Mini Retreat with over 60 people in attendance
- Planned, promoted, and taught Destination Israel class with over 20 participants in attendance
- Put together a daily journal for those that will be visiting the Holy Land in the fall
- Participated in VBS 2018 as a teacher and in leading games
- Worked on delegating regular tasks in preparation for my renewal leave
- Made numerous hospital, nursing home, and home visits throughout the year
- Officiated at funerals for Judy Nystrom, Susan Packer, Dave Carlson, Frank Adams, Tiffany Inselberger, and Charlotte Peterson
- Officiated a Candlelight Service at Highland Memorial Park for those that had lost a loved one over the past year

Paul Kattner, Associate Pastor

For ardent fans of the GCC Annual Report you will recognize this as a new section. After six years of seminary education I completed my course of study in December 2016 (MA in Theological Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) and was recommended by the Board of Elders and called by the congregation to serve as the (part-time) Associate Pastor of Adult Education here at Gurnee Community Church. I started in this new role in July 2017 and was subsequently ordained by the church on January 14, 2018. It is humbling to be called by one's home church and I am grateful for the support and encouragement of many – and for the many kindnesses extended toward me and my family during this season.

The Associate Pastor of Adult Education is (obviously) responsible for the adult education programs of the church – and my particular contribution this year has been more administrative than anything else. I am pleased to report the following:

- Developed and rolled out the Next Step *brand* for adult education at GCC
- Researched, purchased and installed a Next Step Display Board in the Narthex that includes informational cards for all the current classes and programs available to adult learners
- Developed a three-year calendar for class/program offerings with an emphasis on offering a broad range of learning opportunities for people at various stages of their faith journey
- Developed and received the approval of the Board of Elders of a GCC Adult Teachers Guideline (establishes certain expectations and standards for those who teach classes/groups)
- Developed a promotional plan for adult education and related adult programming and groups: this includes an ongoing commitment to provide Connect bulletin inserts, Display Board informational cards, and promotional slides for the narthex and sanctuary (none of which would really be possible without the support of many others – with a special note of appreciation to Nikki Behler)

- Launched a (roughly) monthly Adult Education Newsletter that is sent out via e-blast and posted on the Next Step Display Board
- Provided administrative support and teaching for several mini-retreats (Simplify, Heart of Man Movie Night)
- Introduced and promoted a discipleship curriculum for groups: Disciples Path (from LifeWay)
- Provided administrative support and was part of the teaching team for the following: Adult Sunday School (Book of Job, First Corinthians, Sermon on the Mount) and *Doctrines of the Faith* (a 34-week class on systematic theology)
- Provided administrative support for several topical classes held on Sunday morning (*The Presence, Teach Us to Wait, Neighboring 101*) and for the group led by Dave Stowie in the Go-Together Prayer Room (*Conquer Series* for men battling pornography)
- Taught one of the break-out sessions for the No Regrets Men's Conference (SOAP and Life Journal for daily devotions)
- Presented on the Holy Land at the GCC Senior Luncheon on October 24, 2017
- Participation in the GCC Ministry Fair held in conjunction with the Service in the Park and church picnic
- Participation in a group that meets to support the development of sermon messages peached here at GCC
- Preached 5 times between July 2017 and June 2018

Gurnee Community Church has been blessed by the teaching gifts of many this year in the area of adult education. I am grateful to the following (in no particular order): Steve Saunders, Joe Gibes, John Skillman, Lynn Kattner, Paul Worfel, Chris Stephens, Brian Walter, Emma Cramer, Luke Copeland, and Dave Stowie.

In closing, as I reflect on this past year, I am in awe of how faithfully you have been served by Pastor Brian these past many years as he was providing day to day operational support and leadership to the area of adult education along with the many other responsibilities that fall under his job description. Based on how challenging I found taking on this small portion of his workload I can attest to how well you have been served by him. It has also been a blessing to work alongside Pastor Chris in this new role: he loves you and is passionate about wanting to see you grow in faith. Indeed, the entire professional and para-professional staff here at GCC has shown me what it looks like to have a servant's heart. I am indebted to them for their warm welcome this year and for the example they have set before me – the best is yet to come – and may God receive the glory!

Luke Copeland, Director of Worship and Creative Communication

- Investments in Tech
 - Refresh of chords & stands in the sanctuary
 - Purchase of supplies for FLC sound overhaul
 - Replacement of old microphones
- Investment in Instruments
 - Tuning for upright pianos twice (Fall & Spring)
 - Tuning for grand piano quarterly
 - Cleaning and repair of the manuals on the grand (Sept)
- Visual Projects

- Graphics for Sermon Series (Misunderstood, Home for Christmas, Remembering that God is Good When Life Isn't, Chosen, BLESS, #Adulting)
- Promotional Videos (For Our Neighbors, New Year's Family Event, Mother's Day, Father's Day)
- Holiday Services
 - Christmas Eve at 5 and 7pm
 - Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm
 - Our Good Friday Experience- "Exile"
 - Easter services with choir, a small orchestra, and a large, energetic band.
- Special Services
 - Grade Advancement (Sept)
 - Confirmation (Oct)
 - Infant Baptisms
- Special Events
 - Worship & Picnic in the Park (Sept)
 - Paternity Leave (Nov)
 - Thanksgiving Music Room for Sailors (Nov)
 - Caroling at Heritage Woods (Dec)
 - No Regrets Retreat (Jan)
 - IWU Orchestra Concert (Feb)
 - End of Year Celebration with Choir & Bell Choir (Apr)
 - Worship Karaoke (June)
 - VBS (June)
 - Night of Hymns (July)
- Ensembles
 - Chancel Choir
 - Bell Choir
 - 1st Service Quartet
 - Large choirs for Christmas & Easter
 - Kids' Christmas Choir & Bell Choir

David Ulrich, Director of Church Connections

- Started Feb 2018, taking over from Charlie Quint
- The Church Connections Ministry includes Greeters, Ushers, Secret Shepherds, Coffee and Fellowship ministry, and New Members.
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- This has been a year of blessings.
- GCC Information Directory is available at the Info Desk
 - Next update will be available on GCC website
- GCC Welcome Package are available at the Info Desk
- Training for Secret Shepherds, Greeters, and Ushers is being updated and will be available on the GCC website
- Updating procedures for first-time attenders and new-comers.

- New member luncheon was held in the spring and several new members were accepted into GCC over the summer.
- Updating the process and the forms

Nancy Westover, Director of Missional Living

- Oversaw changes in the Missional Advisory Team with the addition of Ranell Stigall. The team also consists of Hank Rastelli, Ken Roscher and Andy Yeaman.
- We are moving to monthly electronic payments for our individual/family partners.
- The Team interviewed four individuals/couples requesting financial support from GCC and sent out several applications.
- Used discretionary funds for the following:
 - Supported Mallory Lense on a mission trip to Europe through Judson College.
 - Supported Parker Main on a short-term mission with Cru.
 - Donated \$1000 to the Reachglobal Panama ministry fund through the Fowlers.
 - Provided 10 scholarships to Word of Life Panama camp.
 - Provided scholarship for CLC students to attend IVCF conference.
- Threadz is the first ministry to begin the implementation of a more relational ministry. Groups will adopt a family and have three touch points with them: buying school uniforms and supplies, Christmas and Spring Break.
- Big Events:
 - Adult trip to Kenya by a team of five: Nancy Westover, Hank Rastelli, Brian Walter and Paul and Kristi Worfel. We met with all three mission partners and spent 10 days at Abba's House building a new classroom for the school, painting in the residence, interacting and ministering to the children and two churches.
 - Thanksgiving Dinner
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - Coats for Clearview
 - Park City Harvest Fest and Spring Childrens' Day. There were also 100 backpacks with school supplies donated to families at the request of Park City officials.
 - Kindred Life Ministry Golf Outing and Sippy cup fund-raiser
 - Continued Kids Hope USA, a mentoring program for grade-school kids, working with Clearview School. A van was provided to those in the programs whose parents permitted them to attend VBS at GCC.
 - Expanded the Threadz ministry, a Love INC "gap" ministry that provides school uniforms for kids in the Waukegan school system who cannot afford them.
- Supported Missions:
 - GCC Community Compassion Fund
 - Love, Inc
 - Kindred Life Ministries
 - InterVarsity (Purdue University- Fort Wayne, Lara Archibald, and College of Lake County, Katie Chambers)
 - Independent Gospel Missions (Paul & Leah Manyara)

- Loving Indeed (Abba's House and Simon and Margaret Muhota)
- African Inland Mission (Little Lambs Feeding Centers – Kenya)
- Reach Global (Jon & Bianca Fowler, Panama, and Carlos and Suzanne Tejada, Costa Rica)
- Word of Life (Panama)
- Pioneer Bible Translators (Thea and Carsten Colburn)
- Adventure in Mission (Amy Deming, Georgia, USA)
- The Go!Project c/o Christ Together (Gurnee evangelism effort)
- Man-In-The-Mirror Ministries (Ron Reed)
- Other Ongoing Activities:
 - GCC Food Pantry
 - Love INC furniture delivery, warehouse and office support, support for Transformational Ministry program

Diana Killian, Director of Congregational Care

- The team consists of Adele Dixon, Nancy Gordon, Sue Kilik, Diane Iwema, Vonnie Johnson and Martha Schmidt and- Director - Diana Killian who report to Pastor Brian Walter.
- Two new members joined the team in March 2018 – Cyndi Pleasant and Janet Jorgensen.
- A Senior Gathering was held on October 24 with 70 attendees. Salads, sandwiches and cookies were served. Pastor Paul Kattner presented a very well-received slide program - A Tour of the Holy Land and Beyond. Staff and Elders also attended and visited with the Seniors
- The Senior luncheon was a hit on May 8 with 75 attendees including staff. The entertainment was well-received (Tom Stanfield) by all. A big thank you to Care for hosting, making salads and all the work that made it a success. A thank you to staff for your willingness to attend and visit with our seniors at the Church. They love it.
- Mailed Connect weekly to between 4 and 7 recipients per week
- Mailed cards to College students at Valentines and at Easter (with McDonalds Gift Cards). Also Graduation cards for college and High-School kids
- Mailed approximately 250 cards throughout the year for holidays, sympathy, bereavement and thinking about you.
- Made over 50 visits at home or to assisted living/nursing homes
- Provided numerous meals and rides as needed.
- In May 2018, Diana Killian stood down as Director of the Care Ministry. Pastor Brian will lead this Ministry until a replacement is found. Our thanks to Diana for her inspired leadership and her commitment to serving those in need.

Josiah Goering, Director of Student Ministries

- Events
 - Grade Bump (Aug)
 - Gurnee Days Booth promoting Venue (Aug)
 - Start of New School Year for Venue (Sep)
 - Back to School Kick-Off Event - “Knockerball” (Sep)
 - One Retreat (Oct)
 - Kroll's Farm Event (Oct)
 - Turkey Trot (Nov)
 - Holding on to Hope Seminar (Dec)
 - Veritas Christmas party (Dec)
 - Winter Retreat @ Camp Timber-lee (Jan)
 - Super Bowl Party (Feb)
 - Service Night @ Love INC (Mar)
 - Experience Night (Mar)
 - Girls/Guys Night Out Event (Apr)
 - End of the School Year Party for Venue (May)
 - High School Senior Recognition Sunday (May)
 - End of the School Year Party for Veritas (May)
 - Kenosha Kingfish Baseball Game (Jun)
 - Service Night - Feed My Starving Children (Jun)
 - Six Flags Day (Jul)
 - Board Game Night (Jul)
 - Panama Mission Trip (Jul)

- Sunday Night Youth Group Series
 - “Measure Up” (Sept)
 - “Own It” (Oct)
 - “Best Seller” (Nov)
 - “Through the Darkness” (Jan)
 - “Crew” (Feb)
 - “Back to Life” (Mar)
 - “Reality Show” (Apr-May)

- Sunday School
 - History Channel’s “The Bible” video series (Jun-Jul)
 - Life Journals
 - 1,2,3 John (Sep-Oct)
 - Malachi (Nov-Dec)
 - Christmas Story (Dec)
 - Death & Resurrection Passages (Mar-Apr)
 - 1 Thessalonians (Apr-May)
 - Amos (Jun-Jul)
 - “Case for Christ” video series (Jan-Feb)

- Bible Timeline Overview (May)
- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Improvements made to High School Room
 - New ping pong table in Fellowship Hall
 - New couches in Fellowship Hall
 - Changed texting service from Simplytext to Flocknote

Carrie Yeaman, Director of Children's & Family Ministries

- Family Events
 - BBQ (Aug) - 38 people
 - Church in the Park (Sept) - all church
 - Marriage Retreat @ Conference Point (Oct) - 2 couples
 - Fall Festival (Oct) - 48 people
 - Service Project (Nov) - 32 people
 - Caroling and Cookie Decorating (Dec) - 27 people
 - Parents' Night Out (Dec) - 32 children
 - New Year's Eve (Dec/Jan) - 50 people
 - Concert and Dessert (Feb) - 40 adults (12 children in childcare)
 - Easter Egg Hunt (March) - 31 kids
 - Scavenger Hunt (April) - 17 people
 - Mother-Daughter Spa (May) - 22 people
 - Maddie Rey Concert (June) at end of VBS
- Children's Events
 - Backpack Blessing (Aug)
 - Grade Bump (Aug)
 - Fire Station visit (Aug)
 - Thanksgiving Sunday School message and crafts (Nov)
 - Christmas (Dec)
 - Christmas program/song
 - Christmas Eve message
 - Goodie bags (70 handed out)
 - Christmas party and special crafts
 - Palm Sunday/Easter (March/April)
 - Palm Sunday handbells/song
 - Easter message
 - Easter special crafts
 - VBS (June)
 - Christlike Theme
 - Computer check-in
 - 147 Kids
 - Approximately 110 volunteers
 - 16 children accept Christ as savior
 - \$940 raised for Little Lambs, Kenya

- Friday night fellowship - food and concert
 - Rock Celebration
 - Climbing Wall (Oct)
 - Minute to Win It Games (Jan)
 - Nerf Gun War (May)
 - Offering (elementary and *started collecting in preschool too)
 - Project Linus - blankets for kids in hospital (\$75)
 - Puerto Rico - hurricane relief (\$75)
- Sunday School
 - Curriculum - Gospel Project (birth-5th grade)
 - 2nd Sunday of the month Elementary students stand in front pew of sanctuary to worship together
 - Children's Ministry in front of Church
 - Christmas Program/Song (Dec)
 - Christmas Eve Message (Dec)
 - Rock celebration (Jan)
 - Prayer vs Blessing (Feb)
 - Palm Sunday Song (March)
 - Easter Message (April)
 - VBS past videos (April)
 - Mother's Day Slideshow (May)
 - Father's Day Video (June)
- Outreach
 - Within Church
 - Welcome packets for new families
 - Baby baptism/dedications
 - Meet with parents
 - Tour of Children's Ministry space
 - Description of Sunday School schedule
 - Provide books
 - Beginner Bible (child)
 - No More Perfect Moms (mom)
 - Point Man (dad)
 - Attendance awards for month of perfect attendance (19 kids largest amount (2017-2018) vs 24 (2016-2017))
 - Cards sent
 - New families - 8 (2017-2018) vs 14 (2016-2017)
 - Miss you - 51 (2017-2018) vs 96 (2016-2017)
 - Communication
 - Constant Contact - monthly letter
 - Printed upcoming events
 - Small Groups
 - Mom's Groups
 - Tuesday night (working moms) 10-12 women

- Friday morning (at home moms) 8-10 women
 - Summer Open Gym
 - Every Wednesday - average 4-6 children
 - Outside Church
 - Monthly Children's Directors Meeting (10 churches participate)
 - Work and Worship Camp (Lake Geneva Youth Camp) - local mission trip
- Volunteers
 - Full set of volunteers for all areas (elementary, preschool & nursery) 55 people (2017-2018) vs 61 people (2016-2017) (not including summer helpers)
 - Preschool volunteers summer off/Summer preschool crew (13 summer volunteers (2017-2018) vs 18 (2016-2017))
 - Fall Volunteer Training
 - Team meetings
 - Elementary
 - Preschool
 - Nursery
 - Requirements
 - T-shirts, * added apron options
 - Name Tags
- Ministry Improvements/Changes
 - Created TruFamily font/logo
 - 100% of volunteers that work directly with children are background checked
 - Incorporated Bible lessons in nursery
 - Updated Nursery
 - Working on Parenting resources
 - Working on Family Devotional resources
 - Looking to add Family mission trip within the next year

Stacey Rowan, Director of Preschool

- Monday Wednesday Friday class 8 children
- Tuesday Thursday class 12 children
- Daily lesson plans
- Monthly bible lessons
- Christmas and Easter celebration weeks
- Holiday parties (Fall festival, Christmas, Valentine's Day)
- Monthly visits with Pastor Chris
- Easter jelly bean hunt ending in the sanctuary for an Easter lesson
- Resurrection eggs and palms for kids Easter week lessons
- Dinosaur week
- Birthday party for Jesus before Christmas break
- Monthly visits with Luke doing music with classes
- Monthly trips on the Warren bookmobile
- Field trips to UNO's pizza and Gurnee fire station
- Guests for safety week from Lake county Sheriff's Dept

- Reviewed and revised progress reports for both classes meeting Illinois state standards for early childhood education
- Attended NAEYC teachers conference in Atlanta, GA for all continuing education hours
- Arranged and completed CPR first aid and AED training for preschool staff and church staff
- Weekly lesson plan and staff meetings
- 2 parent teacher conferences successfully completed and all paperwork filed
- Weekly fb postings
- Bi-monthly advertising on fb for preschool
- New playground is completed and in use
- New equipment and supplies purchased for classrooms
- New curriculum implemented in classrooms
- Monthly newsletters for families to keep up with preschool news
- Annual family fun night/open house approx. 90 plus people attended
- Helped with children and family caroling and cookie decorating event
- Graduation ceremony and celebration for MWF class
- Continuing registration and tours throughout the year for new families
- Spring science lessons with incubation of eggs from farm (did 3 different sets of eggs over 2 months trying to get baby's chicks with no success this year l)

Phil Rosborough, Director of Stewardship

FY 2017- 2018 Summary Results:

Revenue:828,264 (actual);837,500 (budgeted)

Expenses:816,363 (actual); 837,500 (budgeted)

- Began the fiscal year with an addition of 20,014 to cash reserves and 210,653 in the bank
- Ministry highlights for this year include:
- Nomination and approval of Laura Kassel as controller
- Created and maintained weekly stewardship devotionals in the Connect newsletter
- Successful special flood appeal letter to help “catch up” giving from being out of our building for 2 Sundays
- Successful pledge “campaign” yielding our highest committed level of pledged giving of the last 5 years at 563,000
- Redesigned giving envelopes to bring back Free to Thrive giving line
- Continued giving to Free to thrive reduced the mortgage principal balance by an additional 27,614 this fiscal year. Mortgage balance at June 30, 2018 was 452,787
- Switched current credit card to cash rewards program
- Developed operating budget for 2018-2019 fiscal year which was unanimously approved by the congregation at our Annual meeting on June 22, 2018
- Reworked accounting reporting format by each individual ministry area
- Counters are an integral part of the Stewardship team and under Diane Sompolski's leadership continue to provide accurate and timely reporting.
- The Endowment Fund Committee had 4 meetings last year. The committee reviewed the current fund investment portfolio with our advisor from Wells Fargo. The committee reviewed

and approved distributions from the fund totaling 104,770 for the following: nursery remodeling project, provide a GCC named bench for Welton Plaza, and seed funding for initiatives developed by the Master Building Task Force. The fund balance as of June 2018 was 563,169.

- Finished the fiscal year with the addition of 11,901 to cash reserves and 370,083 in the bank which includes 100K of endowment fund earnings taken for potential seed funding for initiatives developed by the Master Building task force

Nikki Behler, Director of Administration

- Changed the term “Office Hours” to “Administrator Hours” which are now 8:30am - 12:30pm M-F year-round with standard daytime door opening times of 9am – 12:15pm.
- Planning, communication and support for No Regrets, Thanksgiving, Alpha, Fall studies, Spring studies, all room bookings, funerals etc.
- Website vendor changed to Clover after BridgeElement announced they would no longer support their website platform. New website constructed and rolled out in August 2017. Several staff members trained in making updates
- New GCC Communications Planning Google sheet constructed for Admin and Pastors to work on event and communications scheduling
- Upgraded Servant Keeper database to version 8 to allow for “self-service” contribution statements and updating of basic information
- Redesigned contribution envelopes and deposit envelope
- Performed a data analysis of “connectedness” (attendance, giving, classes, service and volunteering)
- Support for Panama Mission Trip including donations, dinner-registrations, web page etc.

Gary Elsbury, Director of Building and Grounds

- **Finished our part in the construction of Welton Plaza park**
- Room 109 (Church History room) continues to be worked on.
- Continue to build list and cost on Long Term Capital Expenses
- Survived another Flood Event (July 12, 2017) with just under \$8,000 in expenses.
- Old Grand sign was refurbished with volunteer help
- Continue to update Boiler motors and shut off valves to keep boiler running well

Report of the Board of Elders

Tom Hood, Chair

- Upon completion of the Church fiscal year 2017-2018, the Board of Elders consisted of the following members: Tom Hood, Chairperson, Tricia Elsbury, Secretary, Fran Yanuzzi, Elder Treasurer, Robin Wantoch, Ron Kilik, Amy Gibes, Steve Saunders and Chris Stephens.
- Gary Miller was nominated as Elder and approved by the Congregation. We said good bye to Tricia Elsbury after a long tenure as an Elder.
- The Board of Elders meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. The first Tuesday is generally held at the Church and the fourth Tuesday is held at one of the Elder's homes. The rotating locations of the meeting has given each Elder an opportunity to share hospitality with each other.
- An Elder meeting generally consists of a time of sharing God stories, prayer, a time of enrichment and general business and topics that affect the Church.
- The Elders received a proposed budget from Chris and the Directors with significant input from Phil Rosborough. The budget was discussed and approved to be recommended to the Congregation for approval. The Congregation approved the budget.
- The Elders, Directors and Staff participated in a Leadership Retreat. This time continues to be a great time to build relationships and to allow God to work among us. We are committed to doing this every year.
- Each Elder continues to be associated with each ministry area in the Church to encourage and support. This has continued to go well.
- The Elders additionally invite directors and their spouses to attend Elder's meeting where we can hear what is going on in their life and to hear where we can be of assistance.
- The Elders continue to serve communion on Sundays as is needed.
- The Elders additionally expend significant amount of time supporting the pastoral staff and completing a review of the Senior Pastor as well. The review is intended to be an encouragement and also an opportunity to encourage the setting of goals.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hood, Elder

Baptisms, Dedications, Confirmations, Weddings & Deaths (July 2017-June 2018)

<p>Child Baptism/Dedication Riley Bott Roman Fitch Greta Goering James Harrison Emily Kolar Eloise Krueger Dino Martinelli Sophie Sroka Emilee Willingham</p> <p>Adult/Young Adult Baptisms Kathryn Callen Jonny Hooten Harold Miller-Calvente Joelle Pehrson Lincoln Scherer Caden Sheahan Amanda Sobecki</p> <p>Confirmands Lucas Guagliardo Margaret Herberger Terra Herberger John Gibes Johnny Hooten Lincoln Scherer Caden Sheahan Nicole Ulrich</p>	<p>New Members Mary Alice Habig Arlene Herrick Ethan & Jessica McFaddin Jon & Denise Nagode Jim & Jackie Nagode Mark & Cyndi Pleasant Kelly Sompolski Maxine Svehla Tracy Welch Kimberly Wiltshire</p> <p>GCC Member/Friend Weddings Steve Leiper & Ann Anderson Frank Ventura & Dorothy Deknock</p> <p>GCC Members & Friends Deaths Frank Adams David Carlson Mike James Mary Myers Judith Nystrom Susan Packer Marilyn See Mark Sompolski</p>
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Minutes of Congregational Meetings

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, August 20, 2017 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Elder Board Chair, Tom Hood, opened the meeting at 4:05, Pastor Paul Kattner gave the opening prayer.

Approval of last congregational meeting:

- Paul Kattner made the motion to approve, Luke Copeland second.
- Correction to the spelling of Kristi vs Kristie Worfel
- Minutes approved with changes unanimously

Elder Affirmations of Fran Yanuzzi and Ron Kilik

- Motion to approve Fran by Tricia Elsbury, second by Hank Rastelli
- Motion to approve Ron by Luke Copeland, second by Robin Wantoch
- Approved

Proposed change to the Constitution

- Article VII – PASTORS
Section 3 Pastoral Elections, paragraph G to read “The Board of Elders shall formally review the performance of the Senior Pastor at least once each year. The Board of Elders shall also confer with the Senior Pastor concerning duties, vacations and policies pertaining to the pastor’s welfare and welfare of the church.”
- Tom gave some history about why these changes are recommended in relation to Accountable Leadership format.
- Paul Kattner made the motion to approve this change in the constitution and was seconded by Robin Wantoch.
- Motion passed unanimously

Present ANNUAL REPORT, July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

- Motion to receive by Robin Wantoch, second by Fred Foreman
- Motion approved
- Paul Kattner reflected on the vast achievements were unknown to him but revealed by his reading of this document. He praised all the staff for their dedicated work.

Luke Copeland called out praises for the incredible work that Nikki Behler does in support she gives to all the staff and the GCC family.

Carrie Yeaman asked for prayers for children’s school backpacks and children’s name cards to be prayed for all school year. Children will Bridge Over to the next grade on August 27th.

Tom reflected on the positive giving of the GCC family

Fred Foreman explained the status of our endowment fund. \$50k has been moved to a stable investment medium.

Pastor Brian Walter announced that Judy Nystrom has been admitted to hospice and asked for prayers as she approaches the end of earthly life.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hank Rastelli, second by Luke Copeland
- Tom Hood closed in prayer at 4:25

Submitted by: Tricia Elsbury Elder Board Secretary

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, June 10, 2018 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Elder Board member, Fran Yanuzzi, opened the meeting at 4:05 gave the opening prayer and gave an overview of the agenda topics.

Phil Rosborough, Director of Stewardship presented the budget

- Thank you
 - To GCC family for their generosity
 - To the Directors
 - To Fran Yanuzzi and Pastor Chris for guidance in preparing the proposed budget

Discussion about custodial service care. Pastor Chris shared advantages and disadvantages of the services

Steve Wantoch asked for discussion of plans to promote Free 2 Thrive (F2T) plans.

Phil replied with the review of post pledge letter that was sent to congregation and to bring awareness to F2T

Motion: By Steve Wantoch to accept the proposed budget July 2018-June 2019. Second by Margie Carrick. Motion passed unanimously

Elder nomination of Gary Miller

- Motion by Carol Wright and second by Steve Saunders
- Discussion – Margie Carrick inquired about the process of elder nomination, Fran
- explained the rotation and process
- Voice vote – unanimous motion passed

Elder, Tricia Elsbury, closed in prayer at 4:40

Submitted by: Tricia Elsbury Elder Board Secretary