

2019-2020 MINISTRY REPORT

A Summary of the Annual Ministry Year by the Grace Point Staff

Dave Wolf, Lead Pastor

- Ministry year 2019-20 has been very active as staff pursued strategies related to our vision of building bridges for life change through Christ, specifically looking at the four regions of Acts 1:8. In the coming year we will focus on two strategies to increase the engagement of our people, one through serving and the other through connecting in social settings that lead to organic discipleship relationships.
- After more than six months of steady work, six staff members have completed a process of transitioning duties in their respective roles to be better suited to their God-given strengths. We are now living out a new organizational structure for improved fruitfulness in ministry.
- Our Student Ministry Search team is (Lord willing) nearing the end of a six-month search and believe we have found an excellent candidate for the next season of student ministry at GP.
- We have continued to explore the productivity of our new database GP Central, and completed a church-wide effort to include pictures and update individual profiles, as staff utilizes this tool for greater engagement of our church family. We look forward to implementing additional functionality in the coming ministry year.
- The unprecedented circumstances of a nationwide quarantine in March forced us to move our Sunday services online and ramp up our online presence in social media and through personal contacts. Our tech team and staff have risen to the occasion and we are seeing our church family grow both numerically and in discipleship, despite the unusual circumstances. We are grateful that Christ has promised to build His Church, and that neither the gates of hell, nor the ravages of pandemic can overcome it.

Steve Weir – Pastor of Arts & Communication

Missions

- Over the last ministry year, we have established our global FOCUS and assembled our Global FOCUS Implementation Team, with Denise Nichols at the helm. Our survey trips over the summer were extremely valuable and we saw the Lord's leading and guidance in selecting Lebanon for our FOCUS selection. Additionally, a plan was put together to begin the transition of missions leadership from Steve to Joan, including a new proposal for a Missions LEAD Team.

Communications

- The ministry year has been one for the books regarding communication, having to navigate and balance the tensions of content and frequency in unprecedented days.

Sharon Sloan has been a tremendous asset to our communications, and we've seen record numbers in our social media engagement. We complete the 2018-19 Annual Report (though it was delayed) and have begun work on the 2019-2020 Annual Report. Most of other print projects have been placed on hold for now. In the fall, we were able to complete the adhesive "critters" for placement in the children's wing. Additional critters and decorations maybe considered in the future for the 5th and 6th Grade room.

Technology

- The last several months have been quite busy in transitioning our staff from the Google Apps platform to Microsoft Office365 platform. Email and primary file storage were migrated to the cloud, and staff received multiple trainings on the use and best practices of Microsoft Outlook and OneDrive applications. Provisional plans have been established for the migration of our Access Control system to a cloud-based solution. Lastly, user support and oversight of the office technology systems has transitioned to Bill Wright.

Audio/Visual Technology

- With the renovation of the Conference Room, a new audio/visual system was developed and installed for the purposes of general use, without the need of a technician. The Commons, a new lighting control system was purchased and installed, and we've begun to incorporate some of the new features, with many more to learn and implement. With the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a live streaming system was developed and implemented on short notice with plans for a permanent system to be finalized.

Jay Button – Pastor of Connection

- With our goal to create a culture of belonging for our small groups, we began the year with an August Huddle for all group leaders emphasizing the need for leaders to stay in touch with group members and take on more of a shepherding role.
- We arranged to have every disconnected GP adult attender personally encouraged and/or invited to a small group before the end of August by phone. Then, we sponsored the "Connection Picnic" on September 8 followed by subsequent sign-ups for groups over three Sundays, September 15, 22 and 29th.
- GP Men's Committee called a great number of our disconnected men personally inviting them to the GP Men's Retreat this past November.
- We now have seven men's groups meeting on a regular basis.

Chuck Arnold – Pastor of Congregational Care

- During the 1-year period from July 1st, 2019, to June 30th, 2020, I focused on four specific areas: pastoral medical care, welcoming new individuals and families to our church family, all care ministries, and Grace Point's counseling process.
- **Pastoral Medical Care:** A team of seven individuals; Jim Weber, Jack Edmond, Dave Holmes, Ken Kovalik, Barry Yoder, Dave Kneller and Denise Nichols made weekly contacts with our Grace Point family with medical issues and sent a report to me.
- **Welcoming of New Individuals/Families:** Contact information was obtained from individuals filling out a bulletin flap, attending a Newcomers' Luncheon or from direct contact. An initial welcome letter was sent out, followed up with several calls until a status was established.
- **Care Ministries:** The following care ministries were in place.
 - Barnabas Care Team, Addictions Victorious, Grief Share, Divorce Care, Carrying Hope, and the Fellowship fund. I met with each ministry leader on a quarterly basis.
- **Counseling Ministry:** Individuals, couples or families with various concerns met with me for an initial evaluation. If a situation could be addressed in two or three meetings, then I would meet with those in need. If it was noted that more long-term counseling was needed, then I referred them to one of our support counseling centers.
- In addition to the above four areas, I conducted funeral services, pre-marriage counseling and conducted weddings.

Bill Wright – Director of Finance & Operations

- During the 2019-2020 ministry year, we have added to the core group of the Safety Team to rotate on a continual basis for Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings and large events. We have also improved on our communication methods and actions plans in case of an emergency. In October of 2019, I addressed the congregation after Sunday services about the Safety Team, general actions plans and the concept of Run/Hide/Fight.
- In early March, we experienced a pipe break in the Children's Wing causing quite a bit of flooding. But, due to the quick response of David Crist and volunteers coming to the church with shop vacs, we were able to stop the leak and minimize damage to the wing. The carpet will be replaced on the right-side classrooms as well as the hallway by the end of Summer 2020.
- Software updates were made throughout the fiscal year including our financial software and the launch of GP Central. In early 2020, we also migrated to a cloud-based server with Microsoft Office 365 for better document storage/organization but also the ability to access user data remotely. This became especially helpful when COVID-19 forced the staff to work from home.

Cassandra Dewitt – Director of Children’s Ministry

Children's Ministry at Grace Point has grown and bloomed over the 2019-2020 year.

- We have welcomed many new families to Grace Point in the 2019-2020 year who have expressed their appreciation for our children's offerings on Sunday morning, Wednesday evening and special events. We have seen over 15 new families make Grace Point their home church.
- Our focus on partnering with parents and discipling leaders continues to bloom. We have many leaders continuing their ministry. Even during quarantine, they have cared for the children they oversee, their families and even for the co-volunteers.
- Another example of blooming growth is our leaders who have stepped up and into the Rainbow Class ministry on Sunday mornings. We have a total of seven leaders, three who are new, taking on bigger challenges of nurturing spiritual growth to our eight children to whom we minister there.

Darrell Benjamin – Worship Coordinator

- Before the pandemic, we were going strong with worship ministries. We had two full teams in place on a rotating schedule and the choir was singing once a month. We were also excited with the addition of two new band members, Brandon Lang on bass guitar and Paula Sharik on violin. Sophie Allers also was leading worship occasionally and will take over for a few weeks during the summer ahead.
- Before the pandemic, we were meeting regularly on Sunday nights (new time and day this year), and the change was a great addition for the kids (no sporting events or homework to compete with). We have a very large senior class graduating this year and they will be missed. We had a fantastic fall retreat and two awesome winter camp weekends for Junior and Senior High (although there was no snow). We are excited to see what God has in store for GP Student Ministry moving forward with the addition of a NEW Director of Student Ministry. Yay Jeremy Davis!!!