



BEING AND GOING WITH JESUS

2017-2018 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

GRACE
C H A P E L

The Year in Teaching

If there's one word that describes our last year of ministry at Grace Chapel, it might be this: *personal*.

Okay, we'll admit it: at first read, that doesn't really sound anything like the way we began the year. Last September, Pastor Bryan told us it was going to be a year of "reaching wider." Our approach to teaching and ministry was going to build on our *NEXT* initiative, and the year of #FindYourGo. We'd be reaching more people, getting outside our own walls, and having an impact on the many people right around us; in our neighborhoods, communities, schools, and workplaces.

It's hard to imagine adding anything to the Great Commission: *Go, therefore, and make more disciples*. But if you did, we might have added, "lots more." We started as energized as ever to make real progress towards our vision of changing the spiritual landscape of Greater Boston.

But along the way – as we saw for ourselves – it got personal.

Our first teaching series of the year, *The Divine Invitation*, helped us all understand how Jesus doesn't just invite us to declare him our Savior; he invites us to a better way of living – one that isn't just good for us, but good for the world. Changing the world starts with each of us living the way Jesus taught us to.

Last fall we also launched our fifth campus, in Foxboro. One of the best parts of launching a new location is seeing the campus leadership team come together: everyday people, answering the call to serve with their time, energy, and talents, all leading together in critical aspects of campus ministry. That team working together embodied this idea, from a sermon in September:

Jesus didn't choose one religious professional for his launch team! Jesus is making it clear from the beginning that this is going to be a grassroots movement of ordinary people from every walk of life. The only requirement is that they are people who have answered the call of Jesus.

We're grateful for what God has done in Foxboro, seeing a campus in its first year already serving hundreds of people each Sunday.

Our Advent teaching series, *Peace Be With Us*, started with a clear message for a world in the midst of injustice and conflict: the Prince of Peace has arrived, and he continues to speak today into our lives... personally. It was a beautiful reminder of how God's plan for redeeming our world starts with Jesus redeeming *us*.

We began the new year with a teaching series called *Your Place in God's World*. At some point in our lives, we all ask ourselves, why am I here? What's my purpose? What am I here for, really?

Along the way, we learned that we are all called to be part of something bigger. We are all uniquely gifted and

equipped to participate in the movement of God by the way we live out our faith – in our families, our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

During Lent - a season of reflection, repentance, and searching our hearts - our teaching series, *Broken*, looked at what's wrong in our world through the voices of the Old Testament's minor prophets. And the longer we looked at what's broken in the world, the more we realized that something is broken in us, too.

Our final teaching series of the year was also our Easter theme: *Unbroken*. In the traditional Japanese art of kintsugi, an artist restores a broken work of pottery, making it more beautiful in the process. We saw firsthand how, when God restores us from our brokenness, this very act of redemption changes us in ways that aren't just good for us, but better for the world.

We faced the social and political broken things in the world today, and took time to consider the biblical values that inform our response to them. And more importantly, we named and faced what's broken in us, inviting God to put us back together again.

2018 Ministry Year Highlights

- Our Harvest Fest community outreach events in Wilmington and Watertown combined to draw over 1800 people.
- We welcomed almost 7,000 people to our Christmas Eve services, and we had our most-attended Easter services ever (and over 800 people came to the Easter Egg Hunt at our Watertown campus, and over 350 came to our first Easter services at our new Foxboro campus!)
- Winter Blast 2018 at our Lexington Campus welcomed thousands of people into our church on a cold winter's day, and over 100 new families have been invited to Kids Week 2018.
- Nearly 700 people served their local communities on 59 different projects through Spring Serve 2018.
- People from all over the world spent over 1.2 million minutes watching our YouTube channel, which includes our Sunday morning worship services live stream and other videos.
- We reached over 10,000 people per month on social media.
- Over 2,000 people downloaded our app, Grace Chapel Connect.

Nominations for Elected Church Offices

Elder Board (4-Year Term)

Jimmy Su*, Sandy Shen, Rob Stutzman
(*Returning Elder)

Nominating Committee (1-Year Term)

Sue Corbett (LEX), Bonnie Doremus (WIL), Craig Lillehei (WAT), John Dorr (WIL)

Audit Committee (1-Year Term)

Eric Bergstrom, Renato Zeppi, Russ Ayan

Moderator (1-Year Term)

Amy Warfield

Clerk (1-Year Term)

Sandy Smith

The 2017 Nominating Committee consisted of the following Grace Chapel members:

*Cynthia Fantasia (elder), Priscilla Seuss (elder),
Sue Corbett, Bonnie Doremus, Gerald Ng, Emanuel Tucker*

New Members in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Adams, Mr Samuel C. (Sam)	Gicharu, Mr Samuel Kinuthia	Nielsen, Mr Roger
Adjorlolo, Ms Frances Victoria	Gwee, Emmeline	Nielsen, Mrs Karen Susan
Avram, Mr Alexandru (Alex)	Gwee, Shwen	Nunez, Miss Diana J. (Jessica)
Avram, Mrs Natalia	Han, Mr S. Bruce	Nunez, Mr Rafael F.
Bobo, Mr Michael J. (Mike)	Han, Mrs Unae K.	Nunez, Mr Raphael E. (Emmanuel)
Burnham, Mr David N.	Harris, Ms Rosalind D.	Nunez, Mrs Diana L.
Burnham, Ms Joyce Ann	Hernquist, Ms Dale Clarke	Nyakairu, Mr Stephen
Chugani, Mrs Eldene Amilcar	Hodges, Mr Francis Goff (Frank)	Nyakairu, Mrs Rebekah
Ciliberto, Mr Richard (Rick)	Hodges, Mrs Teresa Dee	Park, Mrs Eunice Eunhee
Ciliberto, Mrs Maritza Estela	Hylen, Ms Eva-Marie	Poirier, Mr Lawrence J. (Larry)
Collins, Mr Joel Buckley	Kiel, Mr Matthew A.	Pyne, Ms Carol Yvonne
Collins, Mrs Karen	Kim, Mr James (Jimmy)	Ramirez, Miss Gavriella (Gavi)
Davis, Mrs Jannell Marie	Kim, Mrs Yeny	Ramirez, Miss Katherine
Deardorff, Mr Dana	Kinuthia, Mrs Naomi	Ramirez, Mr Jorge
Deardorff, Mrs Viki	Loefstedt III, Mr Arthur B. (Bruno)	Tanner, Miss Kelly Jane (Jane)
Dillaire, Mr Alexander Paul (Alex)	Loefstedt, Mrs Janet Mount	Teicheira, Mrs Suk Yon (Suki)
Doremus, Mr David Howard	Mahoney, Ms Carole L.	Thomas, Mrs Elizabeth Sunil
Elianor, Ms Sophonie	Mathew, Sunil Thomas	Toews, Dr Sunny
Enyenihi, Miss Nihietwei	Messervy, Mrs Brenda Ann	Yeh, Ms Faye
Gauntlett, Ms Carla Angeline	Miller, Ms Susan A. (Sue)	Yin, Miss Wenyuan (Wendy)

Membership Summary

Church Membership as of April 30, 2017.....	1945
New Members: May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018	60
Reinstated:.....	3

(Transferred/Dropped by Request) (309)

(The following Members went home to be with the Lord) (13)

Robert MacKerron, William Leaman, Sue Cecere, Barbara Cushing, Geraldine Smith, Vera Bedrosian, Geraldine Heffner
Barbara Davis, Walter Wells, Audrey Vanderpool, Peter Sicurella, Eileen Crowel, Wayne Lambert

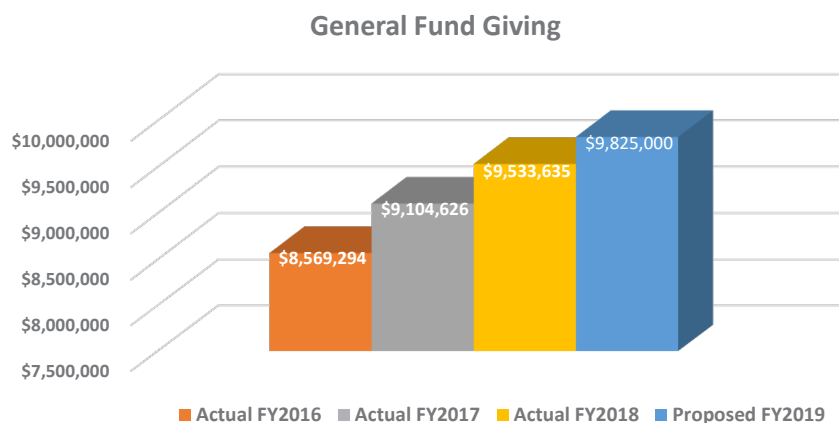
Church Membership as of April 20, 2018..... 1686

Baptisms: May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018..... 30

A Very Generous and Faithful Congregation

Fiscal Year 2018 was another year of extremely generous giving by the faithful people of Grace Chapel, including about 200 new, first-time givers. Our total giving to the church's budgeted general ministries fund grew this year by 4.7% to approximately \$9,500,000, our highest ever. This figure includes gifts to support our regular church ministries, fund our global and regional missions partners, and staff and support our five campuses. Your tithes and offerings also allowed us to fund all the (not previously budgeted) first-year operating expenses of our newly launched Foxboro campus, pay down another \$335,000 of mortgage principal and still contribute \$428,000 to our *NEXT* Reserve for future growth projects – like our soon to be launched Wilmington Campus expansion!

(Note: Our final and fully audited financial statements for the Fiscal Year ended 4/30/2018 will be published later in the summer.)



In addition to this General Fund giving, you provided over \$308,000 in special gifts and benevolence fund offerings to help meet the crisis needs of our own congregation, our neighbors here and people around the world. Specifically, your generosity also provided:

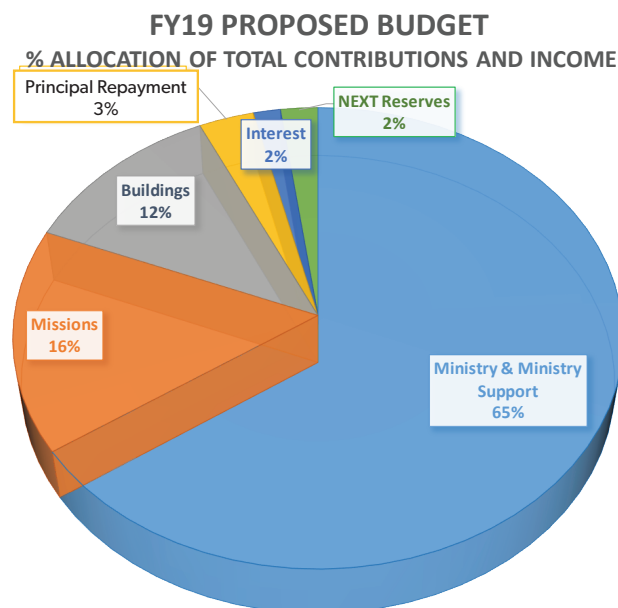
- \$128,129 in Benevolence Fund gifts to meet the local needs of our congregation and community
- \$27,110 in Relief gifts for the Rohingya refugees received during Global Awareness Week
- \$108,321 in Relief gifts for the Rohingya refugees received during Christmas Eve services
- \$45,000 in Special flood relief for victims in Nepal, Houston, and Puerto Rico

NEXT Fund Capital Reserves

In recent years, our annual budgets have included a portion to be set aside as *NEXT* reserves to fund future growth initiatives. We started FY18 with a fund balance of about \$1,100,000 and added about \$428,000 more from our FY18 surplus. Some of this *NEXT* reserve (about \$950,000) was deployed this year at our new Foxboro campus, allowing us to remodel and rehabilitate much of the space in this amazing property, gifted to us by the faithful folks of Foxboro Bible Church. GC Foxboro is now launched, fully staffed and regularly serving over 250 adults and children. Our remaining *NEXT* Fund reserves (about \$575,000) are available (along with Grace Chapel’s additional cash reserves) for the planned expansion of the Wilmington Campus facility.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to FY2019, we see many opportunities in front of us. The Board of Elders is proposing a budget which assumes total general fund giving of \$9,825,000. This FY2019 giving target is the same as our goal for FY2018, but would represent growth of about 3% over our actual giving results for FY2018. (This budget now includes the operating expenses for Foxboro for FY19 along with a reserve of \$225,000 to begin funding some needed capital repairs in our properties and equipment.) This proposed growth in giving is an important part of our “Go” as a church and will provide the resources needed to continue the Kingdom work of reaching people and transforming the spiritual landscape of Greater Boston that God began in Grace Chapel almost 70 years ago.



2018-2019 ANNUAL BUDGET



Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For Budgeted Activities For The Fiscal Years ending April 30th

	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2018 Forecasted Actual	FY2019 Proposed Budget	\$ Change vs. Actual	FY19 vs. FY18 % Change over Prior Year Actual
Revenues and Transfers						
General contributions	\$ 8,804,626	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,233,635	\$ 9,625,000	\$ 391,365	4%
"GO"/Reserve	\$ 300,000	\$ 825,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ (100,000)	-50%
Contributions for Short Term & other Missions	\$ 181,996	\$ 170,000	\$ 192,012	\$ 170,000	\$ (22,012)	-13%
Program registration and other income	\$ 166,379	\$ 161,000	\$ 135,391	\$ 161,000	\$ 25,609	16%
Other Income	\$ 256,911	\$ 194,529	\$ 243,783	\$ 180,000	\$ (63,783)	-35%
Total Contributions and Other Income	\$ 9,709,911	\$ 10,350,529	\$ 10,104,820	\$ 10,336,000	\$ 231,180	2%
Expenditures for:						
Operating Activities--All Campuses						
Ministry	\$ 5,746,111	\$ 6,176,607	\$ 6,078,923	\$ 6,767,218	\$ 688,295	10%
Buildings	\$ 1,239,122	\$ 1,228,758	\$ 1,115,011	\$ 1,228,758	\$ 113,747	9%
Non-Budgeted Foxboro Ministry & Buildings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 430,280	\$ -	\$ (430,280)	
Missions	\$ 1,600,237	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 1,555,974	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 64,026 *	4%
Interest Expense	\$ 162,477	\$ 152,253	\$ 162,088	\$ 164,000	\$ 1,912	1%
Total Operating & Other Expenditures	\$ 8,747,947	\$ 9,177,618	\$ 9,342,276	\$ 9,779,976	\$ 437,700	4%
Non-Operating Activities						
Mortgage Principal Repayment	\$ 335,786	\$ 347,911	\$ 334,565	\$ 331,024	\$ (3,541)	-1%
Total Expenditures for Non-Operating Activities	\$ 335,786	\$ 347,911	\$ 334,565	\$ 331,024	\$ (3,541)	-1%
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,083,733	\$ 9,525,529	\$ 9,676,841	\$ 10,111,000	\$ 434,159	4%
Surplus (loss)	\$ 626,178	\$ 825,000	\$ 427,980	\$ 225,000		
"NEXT" Fund Reserve for Capital Projects	\$ (626,178)	\$ (825,000)	\$ (427,980)	\$ (225,000)		
Net after Capex & Reserve	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -		

* The unspent \$64,026 from the FY18 Missions budget will be made available for missions funding in addition to the FY19 budget.

GRACE CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2017

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER – Cynthia Parker opened the meeting with procedural instructions and prayer at 12:38 p.m. at the Lexington campus. The meeting was simulcast to the satellite campuses of Watertown, East Lexington and Wilmington and a recording will be available online on or about June 5, 2017. Participants can ask questions and submit questions via text through the campus pastors.

VOTING SUNDAY (June 11, 2017) - All members need to be present for the paper ballot with membership confirmed prior to voting. There will be an additional voting Sunday on June 18, 2017 for those unable to vote on June 11, 2017. Final motions will be posted online on or about June 8, 2017 and results will be posted on or about June 19, 2017.

The PowerPoint materials presented at the meeting, including the annual report, are incorporated herein. The minutes from the prior meeting on June 6, 2016 were presented for approval.

ELDER REPORT – Victor Gerdes presented the Elder’s Report.

Victor explained that the elders focused on three things: multi-campus strategy, Grace’s strategy, and Grace’s role in the rapidly changing world. The elders view their role as guarding and guiding. The elders meet regularly twice per month and provide oversight. Elders would like to thank the Lord and give thanks for volunteers (800+), the entire pastoral and support staff. Elders would like to thank Bill and Bryan.

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT – Pastor Bryan Wilkerson presented the Senior Pastor Report.

Ministry theme this year was “Rooted, Growing and Bearing Fruit” which focused on “Going Deeper.” Colossians 2:6-7. Ministry theme directs the teaching journey.

- THRIVE: Life to the Full
- Neighboring Well
- Home is Here
- *NEXT*: Therefore, Go!
- The Roots Challenge
- Dying to Live
- For the Good of the World

Other highlights

- Generosity initiative this year provides funds for specific needs and grows the congregation as givers. We also had a “go fund” for capital improvements. Very grateful for the generosity of the congregation.
- Adopted a new mission statement “Discovering Life with God for the Good of the World.”
- EPIC, our empty-nester/early retirees ministry launched this year.
- We provided election year guidance to give people the opportunity to ask questions and explore civic responsibilities.
- Our Christmas Eve outreach is largest outreach with 7276 attendance. Regular Sunday attendance has been largely flat, consistent with national trends.
- *NEXT* Generosity Initiative

- The Roots Challenge
- Launching Foxboro campus
- Staff Engagement: a bit of a challenge with growing and complex staff, creating an opportunity to lean in and slow down.
- New campus pastors in Foxboro and Watertown

TREASURER'S REPORT – Troy Stanfield presented the Treasurer's Report.

What we are experiencing is truly remarkable and we should thank God for the generosity of our congregation. Annual giving is up 2%, excluding "go gifts" which put us at a 6% increase. Total debt is declining with approximately \$300,000-\$350,000 of debt being paid down. Compared to benchmarks, we have half the debt of similar churches. The Elders are requesting the approval of a budget with a 2% increase in the general fund. One different item is for "NEXT" reserve of funding for \$1 million, hoping to add \$800,000 to that figure this coming year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Priscilla Seuss presented the Nominating Committee Report, identifying the nominating committee members and presented the slate of nominees for the Board of Elders, Audit Committee, Moderator, and Clerk.

- Board of Elders Class of 2021
 - Troy Stanfield – Lexington
- Audit Committee (One Year Term)
 - Eric Bergstrom – Wilmington
 - Larry Warfield – Lexington
 - Renato Zeppi – Wilmington
- Moderator (One Year Term)
 - Cynthia Parker – Watertown
- Clerk (One Year Term)
 - Abby Baird – Wilmington

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Where do we stand for Wilmington building addition?

Have plans and pricing, but need a few million to begin project, but the generosity initiative did not provide enough for getting started. Hope and prayer is to begin soon.

2. Plans for one church Sunday?

Idea comes up consistently and we're open to the idea. There aren't too many venues large enough, but open to the possibility. There are no current plans.

CLOSING – Cynthia Parker closed the meeting with prayer at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Baird

Clerk