



2017/18

# Annual Report





# — EMPOWERED BY GOD — TO REACH OTHERS — FOR CHRIST —

## Note From Bob

For the past five weeks I've been finishing my next book, *Done With That*. Paul says, "The old life is gone, a new life has come." But the old life isn't gone. I still sin. I still get angry, say things I shouldn't, and struggle with anxiety. So what's gone? And what's the new life really like?

I love the subject of this book because that's the heartbeat of our church—helping as many people as we can leave the old life and start living a new life of joy and peace in Christ.

I am so grateful to all of you who continue to pray for, support, and get involved with what God is doing through our church. It was our best year in 27 years! Average attendance was 22,286 people each weekend, with an additional 11,000 watching online every week. We started Online Church in June of 2017 for \$5 million—paid in cash. The Blaine expansion is underway and the \$14 million will be paid in cash out of general fund giving. We opened our seventh campus in Wayzata High School in March 2018 with 1,567 people, and we're planning a campaign this fall to fund a permanent campus in Wayzata. This year, 4,374 people came to Christ (a 24.5% increase over last year), 1800 were baptized, giving exceeded all expectations, and 52,225 people attended Easter services.

What a year! What a church! What a great God we serve.



Bob Merritt, Senior Pastor



# 4,374

DECISIONS TO FOLLOW JESUS

God continues to work in big ways through our church. This past year, 4,374 individuals at Eagle Brook made the first-time decision to follow Jesus.

When we think of all the families, friendships, co-workers, and neighbors who will be impacted by each person's decision—not to mention the transformation of their own life—we are truly blown away. God is moving, and we're so humbled to be part of it.

# 1,800

## PEOPLE BAPTIZED

Baptism is a way of going public with our faith. It's an act that symbolizes the dying of our old life and being raised to new life in Christ. And it's a way to follow Jesus' example and obey God's calling to all believers. That's why, whenever a person makes the decision to follow Jesus, we encourage them to get baptized.



# 8,765

## INDIVIDUALS SERVING

When we serve—at church, in the community, or around the world—we have the opportunity to use the gifts and passions God has given us in unique ways. And this not only impacts our own faith, but it gives us the opportunity to point others to God and connect with them in meaningful ways.

## Online Church

Online Church has been up and running for a year, and it has been amazing to see the ways people are interacting with it. Each week, we have an average of 11,000 online attenders watching around the world.

In February, a local online attender showed up at the Lino Lakes campus to be baptized after watching the beginning of the baptism service that morning. We hope more and more people who live in the Twin Cities will do the same—leaving home and getting out to a campus! And for those who watch from a distance, we hope to continue finding ways to help them grow in their faith this next year.

# 7,732

## PEOPLE IN GROUPS

We weren't intended to go through life alone. God created us to connect in community with other believers to encourage and challenge us in our faith and in our everyday lives. And we believe that when authentic Christian community happens, lives are transformed.

## Heaven on Earth

In February, we did a message series called *Heaven on Earth* that explored what it looks like to partner with God in His mission to reach people—finding tangible ways to serve others and give to those in need.

During this series, 861 people were baptized and attenders pledged 10,814 hours to serving in the community. We also raised and gave away \$1,007,224 to local and global partners to help further their ministries and reach more people for Christ.



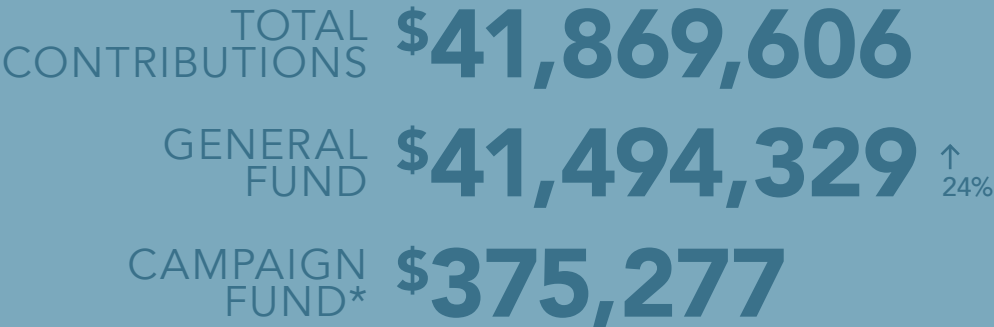
# Financial Update

When I look back on the last ministry year, I continue to be blown away by what God is doing. Once again (it seems like this happens every year), more people came to know and trust Jesus than ever before. At the same time, we continue to see God working in the lives of people through their generosity, resulting in more funding for the ministries of our church. Contributions were at an all-time high this year, far exceeding our planned income. As you may know, we are committed to paying for all new campuses and expansion with cash and not taking on more debt. What a great financial position to be in.

Through the generosity of our attenders, we were not only able to open a new campus this past year but also continue to save for further expansion in the coming year. In March, we launched our seventh campus in Wayzata High School, where we've already seen thousands attend. We are also in the middle of expanding our Blaine campus with a much bigger auditorium, expanded Kids spaces, and an updated lobby experience. This will be completely paid with cash this coming year to the tune of \$14 million. God continues to work through this church in incredible ways!

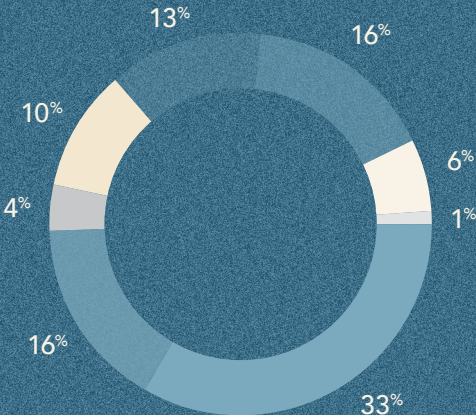
  
Tyler Gregory, Executive Pastor

## Giving Comparison



\*No active campaign. Contributions to the Online Church Fund.

## Expense Comparison



## AVERAGE WEEKEND ATTENDANCE

# 22,286<sup>↑</sup> 1%

## CAMPUS ATTENDANCE

Anoka

# 3,358<sup>↑</sup> +73%

Blaine

# 3,811<sup>↓</sup> -8%

Lino Lakes

# 5,206<sup>↓</sup> -13%

Spring Lake Park

# 1,705<sup>↓</sup> -15%

Wayzata

# 1,056

White Bear Lake

# 2,697<sup>↓</sup> -7%

Woodbury

# 5,191<sup>↑</sup> +3%

## Wayzata Campus

On March 4, we launched our seventh campus at the Wayzata High School. This mobile campus saw instant growth, with 1,567 attending on opening weekend—and those numbers have stayed strong. This is a unique area, and we're continuing to establish ourselves as a place where people can find connection and belonging in this community.

We have a multi-year contract with the school district, but we have already begun the search for our permanent facility, ideally within 5-10 miles of the temporary location. We hope to move into a new facility by 2021 and would love prayers for the process and to identify the right location soon.

