

View from the Ridge
ANNUAL MEETING
September 2017

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2017 ANNUAL MEETING



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PROGRESS & OPPORTUNITIES

Headwinds

In the time leading up to my annual report, I asked God to give me a simple, “one word” summary for this year of church life. I have since chosen the word “headwind.” A headwind blows against the direction of travel. A headwind decreases an object’s speed and increases the time required to reach its destination. In sailing, a headwind may make forward movement difficult, necessitating tacking into the wind. We have charted a course toward Jesus’ mandate... inviting neighbors to find a home in Christ together. But when we look at our effectiveness in receiving outcomes and measures from God in this ministry year, our results have been mixed:

The first of our measures we describe as “SEEK.” We keep track of our average weekend attendance and our total number of healthy small groups. Our average weekend attendance for this year of ministry is 330, and our total number of small groups in all areas of ministry is 55.

The second of our measures is simply “SERVE.” We observe the percentage of attendees who engage in church life and ministry; further, we count the number of service projects in our community. We are grateful for many who serve “one another” in the family of God, and we have 75% of our regular attenders involved in a small group and/or ministry. We also celebrate 20 service projects in and toward our community.

The third of our measures is “SHARE.” We seek to elevate the number of outreach events our church hosts and the number of faith commitments and baptisms. We have had nine intentional outreach events this year, marked by 47 faith commitments and 12 baptisms.

Financial giving is another indicator of our faith and generosity. We are on pace for some \$615,000 to come into the general fund this year, with an additional \$57,000 given to our Live It Out initiative.

In the sovereignty of God, we were pleased to say “hello” this year to some important kingdom workers. Our church family called Kreg Kastelz into our Director of Student Ministry role; further, our church leadership has recognized Debbie Stewart as Interim Director of Children’s Ministry. These individuals have been elevated from places of ministry within our church family to these new places of responsibility. It appears Aspen Ridge Church has begun to generate leaders from within, and for this we are grateful to God.

Alongside of these wins, it seems clear that we face opposition in the spiritual realm from forces that are analogous to a headwind. We have seen a decline in our average weekend worship service attendance (down 11%) and a similar decline in the number of small groups. While the headwinds may appear to be resistant to our progress, they do provide an opportunity. For example, in aeronautics, a headwind may be favorable. One occasion when a headwind is favorable is takeoff, because greater lift is possible than with tranquil air or a tailwind. As a result, aviators commonly turn their aircraft toward the wind to gain the advantage of such lift.

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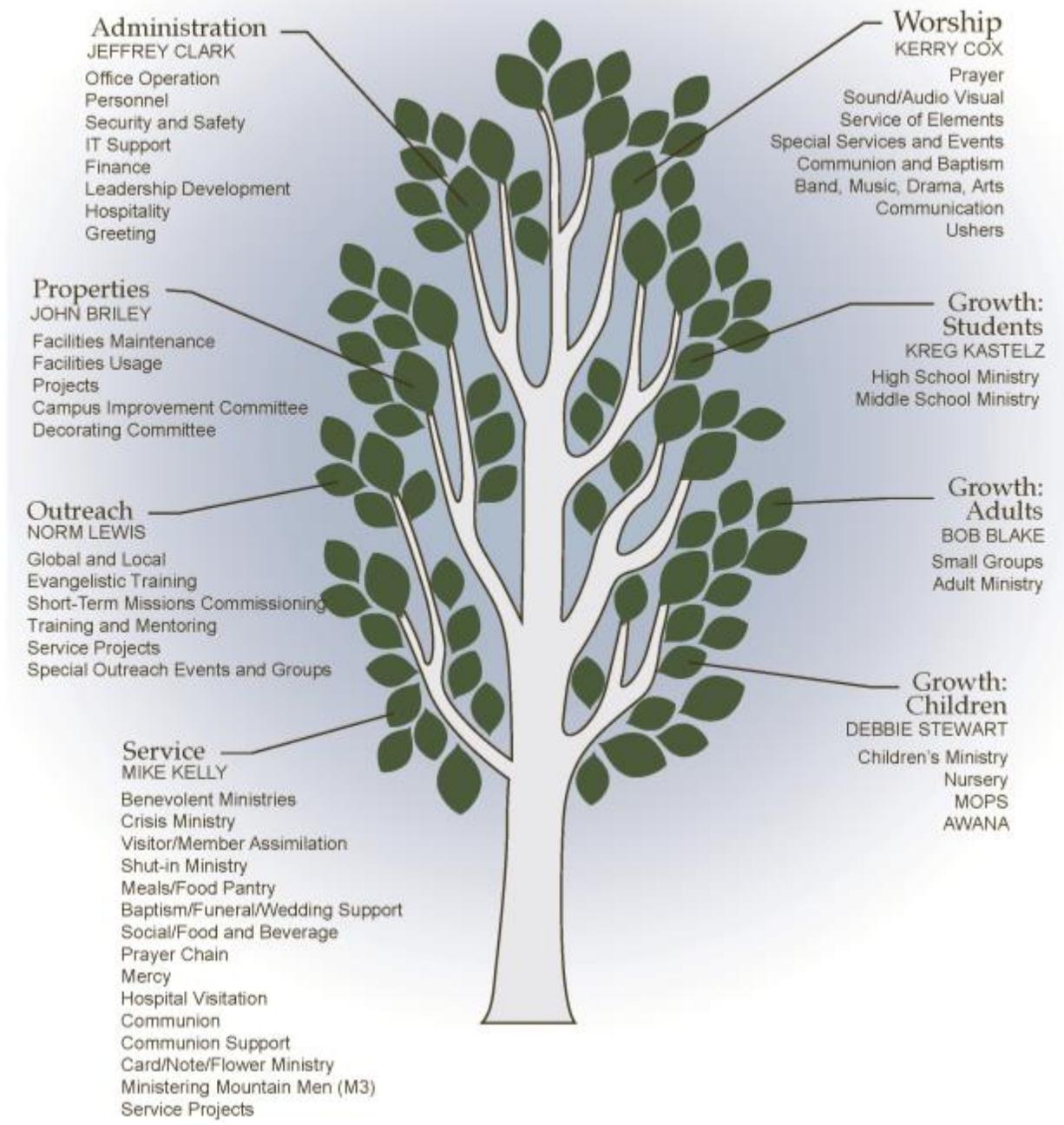
The headwind provides us with an opportunity to face our challenges with trust in God, building on our strengths and shoring up our weaknesses. We have a measure of strength and grace showing up on our "SERVE" and "SHARE" areas. God willing, we will develop this strength by providing church-wide training in learning how to effectively SHARE our faith. This will come with two fall small groups (entitled "Becoming a Contagious Christian") and a Spring church-wide initiative using the same curriculum. Further, I have a prayerful determination to initiate a series on the Acts of the Apostles that will build on the idea that we are sent so our community may come to know the treasures of the gospel. May God use these initiatives to bear fruit in average weekend attendance. Further, we have additional Live It Out plans, including local service projects and (God willing) the identification of a Director of Small Groups.

In sum, I call Aspen Ridge Church to prayerful dependence upon God. We have an opportunity to face into the headwinds and really take off! I exhort you to connect with Jesus Christ through corporate worship and small group life. I encourage you to team with your small group toward service projects in our community. I invite you to receive instruction on how to build relationships in your neighborhood and community for the advance of the gospel in faith commitments and baptisms.

Carried Along by His Spirit,
Pastor Jeff

MINISTRY TEAM GRAPHIC: THRIVE

FINDING **YOUR** PLACE TO SERVE AND GROW
IN THE MINISTRY TEAMS



STUDENT MINISTRIES

Foundations

I write this annual report having only experienced half of this year, but praising God for every minute of it. This last five months of my time here has been wonderful and if I had to coin a phrase to sum up my time, it has been building foundations. I came on board as Director at a time where the school year was winding down, and kids were on a six-month break from their last youth pastor. So, my challenges were building relationships, keeping quality teaching and laying the ground work for a youth ministry I plan to grow over the next number of years.

Having the same measures in the youth ministry as the church as a whole, "Seek" is the first category. In the youth ministry attendance is a bit different than church so I broke it into three categories:

- Midweek School Year Attendance: 48
- Sunday School: 18 (per Sunday)
- Summer Midweek attendance (Back Porch): 35

All of these counts are a collective of Middle and High School combined.

The Second measure is "Serve," where we attempt to assess the percentage of attendees who actively engage in church ministry. This percentage is a little hard to come by when looking at the youth ministry, since their roles are not always known or defined. I will focus on the second part of this, which is the number of service projects students were involved in for the year. While most of these projects were done by our missions team in Mexico, we had nine total service projects participated in by the DV8 students.

The Third Measure is "Share," that being the act of reaching others through outreach type events. This category again is pretty heavy with the missions trip this year, but we had five outreach events. This totaled in roughly 100 children in Mexico hearing the Gospel, 120+ people talked with students at the Colorado Mills Mall about Christ and salvation, about 15 new faces visiting DV8 ministries, three student salvations and two DV8 student baptisms.

In the coming year, I really want to continue to build out a DNA of a welcoming student community where students can invite friends to come and encounter Christ. I want to train the kids to be able to take the Gospel into their schools, friendship groups and families, so that they can reach those who might never step foot in a church. I also want to continue to develop adult leaders and student leadership to help provide the infrastructure for growth in the student ministries.

I truly feel that we've seen some great things happening in the short time I've been here. As I continue to develop that relationship equity with students and parents, we'll see DV8 gaining more traction and momentum in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Associate Pastor Kreg Kastelz

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Seek:

The children at Aspen Ridge have been consistently and genuinely seeking Christ each week through children's church, small group discussions and bible reading and worship. Children are also seeking Christ at MOPS and AWANA where His love is reinforced by biblical knowledge and understanding.

- We have seen 23 conversions. Each child was given a personalized Bible.
- 5 Baptisms.
- Average weekend attendance of 75-90 children.
- Average Wednesday AWANA attendance of 115. Cubbies – 15. Sparks – 45. T&T – 50. Trek and Journey – 15.
- VBS 2017 saw 5 conversions and we are discussing baptism with these families.

Serve:

Children are small, but serve in big ways that make lasting impressions on their behavior as they grow into young adults. This year, children have engaged in individual projects that have originated out of their children's church lessons. Our motto is "Living Inside Out" – by taking our faith in Christ and making a practical difference in our homes, schools and community.

- 6 children have been serving as classroom helpers/teacher's aide under supervision and guidance.
- Kids have been cleaning the trash from the playground and helping keep classrooms tidy.
- 5 children have been serving as a greeter in the kid zone (under supervision) and have handed out Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts.
- Operation Christmas Child – Children donated approximately 125 boxes.
- Children continue to give monetary donations to Live It Out. They are also talking about ways they have served others for the glory of God.
- AWANA Children collected over 600 pounds of food donations to give to Life Bridge Food Pantry in Bailey.
- VBS Collected over \$500 for "Water for Peru." Children were very passionate and generous for this mission to provide clean water to children in Peru. \$5 will provide clean water to a child for one entire year! This is the largest contribution we have collected from VBS in recent years.

Share:

Children's Ministry has been sharing God with others in the following ways this year:

- RidgeFest, last September, served over 350 people through community outreach including music, singing, dance, food and exercise demos- we plan on continuing RidgeFest September 30, 2017.
- Aspen Hollow, in October, shared God's love with the community and 400 people came through the 'Hollow' getting showered with the positive message of God's love and community. We plan to host it again Oct 31, 2017.
- In April, we shared food and Easter and egg hunting joy with over 200 people at the MOPS HOP.
- In June, we hosted VBS with a 'Maker Fun Factory' theme - "God Created you for a purpose." 150 children attended. ~60 Volunteers served. 5 conversions, and we are currently discussing interest in baptism.
- We have implemented 2 Family Services this year, with one more to come in August. This is an opportunity for families to worship together. A Children's Sermon is presented at these services.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Stewart

PROPERTIES MINISTRY

During this past year the Properties Ministry Team accomplished the following:

Property Care and Building Use Activities

- Oversight of janitorial service work performed by our contractor (Patrick Murphy).
- Oversight of ongoing maintenance, repairs and improvements by the staff Maintenance Technician (Marty Lake).
- Execution of more than 50 construction, fix-up and painting tasks on the main church building, Parsonage, Annex and campus by Church Care Crew (CCC) volunteers.
- Oversight on the use of the church building by Aspen Ridge and outside groups.

Projects

- Purchased new chairs for the Celebration Center.
- Parking lot pavement repair, crack filling, seal coat and re-stripe.
- Building Exterior Upgrade - completed study, received bids and started construction.

In March of 2017, Jeff Goodwin stepped down as Leader of the Properties Ministry Team to manage the Exterior Upgrade project and John Briley accepted leadership of the team.

For the upcoming year, the Properties Ministry Team will continue to oversee property care and building use activities.

If funds are available, we look forward to planning and carrying out projects during the upcoming year as follows:

- Complete the Building Exterior Upgrade project.
- Replace worn and wrinkled carpet in Kids Zone classrooms and other areas.
- Replace composition flat roof with neoprene roof.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Goodwin and John Briley

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SERVICE MINISTRY

The first order of business is to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone at Aspen Ridge who has been a part of the Service Ministry.

Did you know there are no less than 10 different active ministries that fall under the Aspen Ridge Service Ministry? Those involved work tirelessly (usually behind the scenes) and deserve much more thanks than they receive. So, say "Thank You" the next time you see: a Greeter at the door, someone making and serving Coffee, someone at the Welcome Desk, those preparing the monthly Communion elements, those who support Baptisms or Funerals, those heading off to their M3 Ministries or a local service project, the cooks preparing the weekly Wednesday Night Dinners, those who prepare the frozen meals to be given away, those who provide a visit or card to those who need it and if you are at the Sunday potluck, you can even applaud right now for those who set up the food, tables and beverages needed for the very event we are now enjoying. These are all Aspen Ridge'ers who have servant hearts and are using their spiritual gifts and talents to support this ministry.

Most of these ministries have dedicated members as leaders, but the Deacon Team is charged with managing all of these things so, a personal thank you goes to Carol Battersby, Eric Krajewski, Ed Marcy, Eric Marshall, Carol Reinoehl, and Daniel Sheffer. Eric Marshall needed to resign from the deacon team due to Karen and he moving to NC.

Praise God!! - This fiscal year over \$12,500 was donated to the Benevolent Fund. It is this loving support, as motivated by God, that provides the funds to help those in need. These needs included (but not limited too) home and auto repairs, rent and mortgage payments, counseling expenses and literally putting food on the table. As a reminder, on the communion weekend of each month a special offering is taken to replenish the Benevolent Fund. God continually amazed us by financially providing every penny needed; we serve an amazing God!!

Personally, I am very excited to see what God will do next through the Aspen Ridge Service Ministry. There are terrific ideas that have come from the many who have been involved with the various aspects of this ministry, and as God directs, we are working on implementing many of these ideas to support our vision of "Inviting neighbors to find a home in Christ together."

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Kelly

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY

The Worship Arts Ministry experienced another exciting year, growing in the number of people involved as well as in the scope and excellence of our artistic attempts. We saw a total seven new people added to our various teams, which continued a steady climb as more and more people are finding a place to serve within the Worship Arts Ministry.

Looking back over the services that this ministry has been involved in creating and pulling off over the last year, several things stand out. We had an incredible Christmas Eve service that drew in many visitors and brought us all to a great place of true celebration of the greatest birth in history. We also created a special DVD that we handed out in conjunction with our Christmas Eve services that many families were able to use as a devotional on Christmas Day. We have had the pleasure to be a part of Baptism services, Parent/Child Dedication services, monthly communion services, special services where we have highlighted the Youth Ministry and the Outreach Team and services where we featured various ministries outside the church that Aspen Ridge supports. With each one of these services, we tried to bring a spirit of worship and heart-level commitment to present to the church body, all in an effort to grow together as the Body of Christ.

Stephen Newhall served faithfully in the worship arts assistant position from September of 2016 through July of 2017. Stephen's voice and heart were a key part of the worship arts ministry, and we wish him well in his new role as a staff member at Littleton Christian Church.

We finally have some stability with our sound and video systems. They have been working flawlessly for most of the past ministry year, and it has allowed us to focus on more than just troubleshooting all the time! We are so grateful to the church for investing in a sound board, speakers, projectors, and screens that will serve us well for many years to come, and that will allow us to grow as God brings new people to our church and to the worship arts teams. The monitor we have added in the rear of the Celebration Center has been beneficial both to our singers as well as to our speakers, allowing them to see in real time what is happening on the screens behind them.

Our monthly rotation of volunteers allows us to keep everyone "fresh" and feeling challenged, but not "burned out," and we still have room to grow in filling out our teams. There is great satisfaction when we can see people using their gifts to the glory of God, but also working within boundaries that allow them to be emotionally healthy and well-rounded.

Thank you for supporting the Worship Arts Ministry here at Aspen Ridge, and we look forward to continuing to serve our church family as well as our mountain neighbors for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Kerry Cox