



communitychurch
of east gloucester

2018 annual report

“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...”

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7 Chapel Street, Gloucester, MA, 01930

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Typeface set in Adobe Caslon Pro
Page Layout in Adobe InDesign CC
Printed through Lulu.com

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introduction

*“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.”
Psalm 107:2*

I am writing this introduction to our 2018 Annual Report while sitting in my office on the last day before I leave for a four-month sabbatical, funded by the Lilly Endowment and affirmed and provided by Community Church. And I exhale.

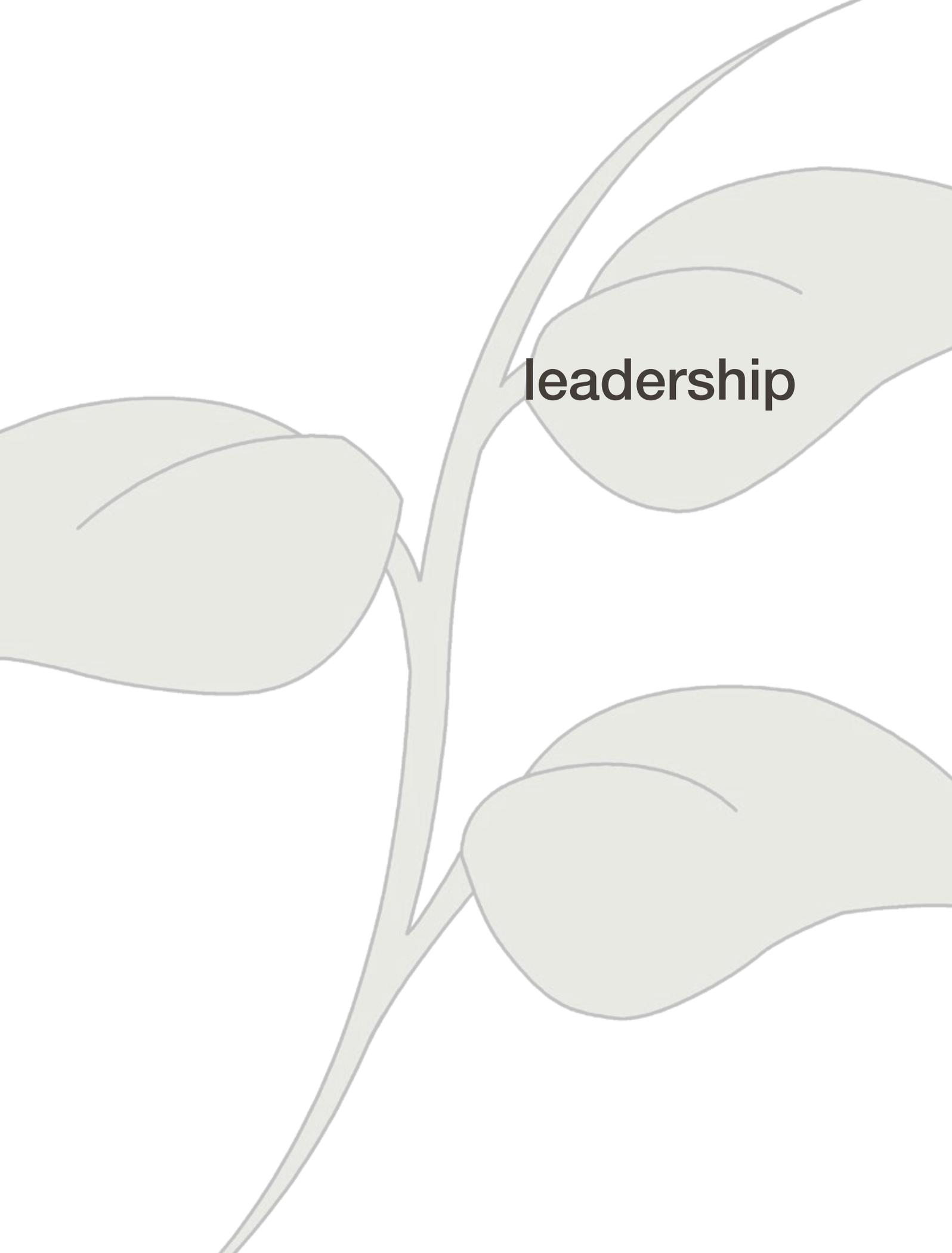
It’s good to exhale every once in a while: to breathe out all that we’ve been carrying with us through 2018, and breathe in deeply the beauty and purpose God has in store for us as a church in 2019. The Annual Report provides a chance for us as a church to look back on the year and delight in the amazing things the Lord has done in our midst. We have been hard at work making disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city, and the pages that follow are chock-full of evidence – or rather, they are filled with the stories of God at work in our church and in our world.

This is your invitation to exhale. These stories are worth reading. These photos conjure memories that are worth remembering. From baptizing people in the cool waters of the Atlantic, to Lobster Trap Treelightings and Coastal Cleanups; from revitalized small groups to retreats and one-on-one discipleship relationships; from people growing closer to Jesus, to people encountering Him for the very first time. Even the budget

numbers at the back of the report call to mind God’s incredible faithfulness – his faithfulness on display through your generosity and worship – as we came back from a significant budget deficit and finished the year in the black. We have seen some huge changes in the life of our church this year that have brought stability, wisdom and vision for our future together. Jesus has been shining brightly among us, and through us, and taking the time to pause and read and reflect on so much of what the Lord has done should give us all reason for gratitude and worship.

So allow this Annual Report to be an excuse to slow down and exhale. Give yourself permission to ponder, to give thanks, and to remember your story (Psalm 107) as we celebrate together all the Lord has done this year!

In Him,
Together with you,



leadership



about our leadership

Community Church has five main groups of leaders that work, in their various roles, to lead our church and to facilitate our mission to exalt God, equip His church, and extend His grace in Gloucester and the surrounding communities.

OUR ELDERS

Community Church is governed by a board of elders. Informally, the role of the elders is to create the best possible environment for everyone at Community Church to use their gifts to build up the body and bring glory to Jesus Christ. They are a group of people that come from diverse church backgrounds and life experiences, but who find unity in their commitment to Christ and their commitment to serve and lead Community Church. Our elders are brought before the congregation on an annual basis for reaffirmation at the Annual Meeting. Even as the lead pastor carries specific leadership responsibilities, he is understood to be a fulltime elder. The elders meet every other month, and on an as-needed basis, to address matters of doctrine, direction, church discipline and staff development. Additionally, every elder is a member of the Leadership Team (see below), working together with that team to pray for our church, and to lead the church on a day-to-day basis. This year, our elders were: Dean Sidell, Joel Skinner, Chris Love, and Pastor Tim Bushfield.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team is the main leadership body that handles the day-to-day life and ministry of the church. This team includes men and women who have been identified to have leadership and shepherding gifts to serve the church as a whole, in addition to any specific ministries in which they might be involved. The Leadership Team meets monthly to evaluate and discuss vision implementation, ministry direction, and upcoming events. They also discuss things like potential teaching directions and shepherding needs in the church community. The team spends time praying together over our church and for individuals in our body when we meet. In addition to the monthly meetings, people from the Leadership Team are also involved in shepherding in smaller groups and in one-on-one situations where compassion, discipleship, or shepherding is needed for a season. Finally, the Leadership team is committed to learning and growing as leaders. A portion of each meeting is focused on diving into a time of learning. This year the team focused on developing ways they can better engage in the life of the church. They learned about the systems and procedures of decision making and about their role and posture on Sunday mornings as well as other Community Church events.

OUR DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS

Throughout the history of the church, discipleship has been the primary mechanism for growing followers of Jesus. Rather than being a one-size-fits-all ministry, discipleship exists as a beautiful variety. Some choose to meet in pairs. Others may form triads of three. Still others meet in larger groups of up to ten. Regardless of the form, the goal is to move ever closer to Jesus as we grow in relationship, study God's word, pray, and serve together.

The discipleship ministry was under the care of Susie Skinner for the first half of the year in her interim role as Coordinator of Community Life, before passing it on to Jake Brooks as he stepped into the Associate Pastor of Discipleship role. Jake continued to meet with small group leaders and other disciple-makers in our church to equip and encourage them as they continue the work of making disciples who are following Jesus and growing in relationship with Him.

OUR MINISTRY TEAMS

At Community Church, with our distinctive of collaboration, we do as much of our ministry as possible in teams. Our ministry teams are made up of volunteers

that pour their hearts into making our church community a dynamic, growing place of worship and growth. From our children's ministry leaders through our worship teams, and from our Open Door coordinator to our Global Outreach team, these men and women serve faithfully and tirelessly to build up the body of Christ. This is a dynamic group of people, and there are often changes in this team from season to season as people step in and out of ministry roles. But they are a key element within our leadership structure at Community Church, and we are so grateful for all their hard work and dedication to their ministries and to each other.

OUR ADMIN TEAM

We have a team of people who work behind the scenes to support the various ministries of the church from a facilities and financial standpoint. The Executive Admin Team consists of the Chair of the Admin Team (Dean Sidell); the Lead Pastor (Tim Bushfield); along with the Collector (Amanda Matczynski); the Bookkeeper (Bill Woodson); Human Resources (Marianne Peterson); the chair of FIT, our facilities improvement team, (Russ Webber); and our Church Admin and Ministry Coordinator (Katie Madden). They work to

implement the congregationally-approved budget throughout the year, and together they provide the much needed administrative support that keeps Community Church running and engaged in significant, life-changing ministry.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

In addition to these five main groups of leaders in the church, we have a staff team that works together to support and invest in all of the above leaders, as well as providing concrete and consistent leadership among those teams. This year, we saw Tim Bushfield continue in the Lead Pastor role. Katie Madden continued in her role as Ministry Coordinator and Administrator, serving for 30 hours per week. Matt Nilan served 20 hours per week as our Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Jake Brooks joined the staff team at Community Church this past summer as our new Associate Pastor of Discipleship. He first started attending Community Church in 2008 while at Gordon College. He received his B.A. in Christian Ministry from Gordon College in 2010, and completed his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2013. Jake has worked for the last five years serving in student devel-

opment at Gordon College as a Resident Director, and he ministered previously as a Youth Pastor in Beverly. Community Church also ordained Jake in 2015 to serve as an Army Chaplain where he continues to serve in the U.S. Army (Massachusetts National Guard).

Together, these teams cover all the bases of church leadership and provide a concrete collaborative leadership environment that legitimately equips and empowers members of Community Church as we all strive to use our gifts to build up our local part of the body of Christ.



from the elders

The opening lines of Psalm 107 remind us “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story...” As we reflect back on this year and look forward to the year to come, these words are a joyful reminder and encouragement to give thanks to God and to tell our story.

Like many great stories, the end of 2017 left many questions unanswered. The church had been blessed by the work of Suz Skinner and Jake Brooks serving in one-year interim roles. Suz served as Coordinator of Community Life, Jake as Chaplain-in-Residence. The looming question in 2018 was yet unanswered: who would fill a more permanent position as the Associate Pastor of Discipleship? A hiring team was formed in late 2017. After much prayer and discussion, the team decided that it was time to cast our net wider. To this end, the team shared with the congregation a plan to use the church’s “What is God Going to do Next?” fund to pay for a hiring consultant. The congregation affirmed this direction. At the same time, the hiring team thought it wise to reach out to Jake and Suz to see if they had felt led to apply for the permanent position. Surprising both himself and us, Jake expressed inter-

est. Previously, he had planned to pursue a full-time role as a chaplain for the army. The hiring team put the hiring consultant on hold and entered into a time of discussion, prayer, and discernment with Jake. At the end February, with great joy, the hiring team announced that Jake Brooks would be accepting a position as the Associate Pastor of Discipleship at Community Church. He would also be able to continue working part time as a Chaplain in the Army National Guard. The church would have the unique privilege to pray for and encourage this ministry even as we experienced God’s gifting in Jake. In every part of this story, the church was able to see how God clearly provided the path as well as means to move forward and trust in Him. We praise God for his clear guidance and faithful provision.

Even as the church added to our Staff Team, the Elders recognized that we needed to continue to care for and recognize the hard work of our existing staff. Senior pastor Tim Bushfield has been working tirelessly at Community Church for seventeen years without a sabbatical. For this reason, early in 2018, the Elders and Bushfields pursued a grant-funded sabbatical, paid for by the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

If the application was accepted, the grant would allow the Bushfields to create their own four-month long renewal experience. The grant covers up to fifty thousand dollars in total expenses. This would include a number of travel components for both Tim and his family, including a cross-cultural experience. The grant also allowed for money to support the local congregation while their pastor is on sabbatical. The application process was quite extensive, taking up many hours of dreaming, planning, writing, and financially calculating. Lilly Foundation encourages sabbatical applications to be based around a theme. The sabbatical team decided on Psalm 107: "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story."

The congregation was very supportive of the plan to apply. The application was submitted in April, but Lilly would not announce grant decisions until August or September. The congregation waited, hoped, and prayed. In August, we received a letter from Lilly. Our sabbatical proposal was accepted! The whole church rejoiced. The sabbatical will stretch from early January 2019 until April. We rejoice in God's lavish gift of this sabbatical. We are so grateful for the long service of Tim and his family. Even

as 2018 draws to a close, we pray that God grant Tim, Joanna, and the kids a profound renewal. We believe that the sabbatical provides a unique opportunity for the church to enter a time of reflection into our own story of what God has done. It will also provide a number of opportunities to respond to God's call on our lives through service, outreach, and worship. For all of these reasons, we look forward to what God will continue to do among us and through us throughout this time. We also cannot wait to hear about the Bushfields' time in sabbatical. We look forward to hearing their stories upon their return.

Truly, we serve an awesome God. 2018 gave us several powerful reminders of the great story of God's love and provision for Community Church. We look forward to the future of what God will continue to do around and among His people. May God continue to be glorified as we tell His story.

-the elders
(Chris Love, Dean Sidell,
Joel Skinner, and Tim Bushfield)



from the leadership team

As a Leadership Team, we are trying to seek God's wisdom as to how we can help our church grow and develop, as God would want. For this year that has also meant thinking through how we can thrive as a church, even when our Pastor is on Sabbatical.

It continues to be our desire that everyone in our church will be able to say at the end of each year that they have grown in spiritual maturity and in wisdom and knowledge. One of the distinctives of the Leadership Team is to be involved in Shepherding and Congregational Care. Each meeting we spend time praying for individuals in our church. Throughout the year we manage to pray for everyone in our church.

We also talk about how we can become better disciple-makers in our church community. It is our hope that we will be training new leaders in our church and helping them develop in their Christian walk. It is essential to the health of our church for people to discover what their spiritual gifts are and to step out in faith and use them. We desire to be a church where the whole body is ministering to the whole body—not a church where a few people minister to the whole body. That can't happen unless we know what gifts we have and use those

gifts to strengthen and encourage the body every day. We pray that God will give us the wisdom we need and help us in the weeks and months ahead.

In the Leadership Team, we also spend a lot of our time focusing on the running of the church. We check in with our ministry team leaders and help out any way we can. We are involved in planning the ministries of the church and implementing the vision and direction of the church.

We look forward to another good year, and we are excited to see what God has in store for us.

-The Lead Team

Amanda Matczynski, Katie Madden,
Tim Bushfield, Joel Skinner,
Chris Love, Dean Sidell, Jake Brooks,
Matt Nilan, Cory Ward, Deanne Levitt,
Kim Sawyer, Suz Skinner



installation

On Sunday, June 24, we had the chance to install Jake Brooks as our new Associate Pastor of Discipleship. It has been a number of years that we have spent seeking to fill this role, and the Lord is faithful! Jake, together with his wife Leah and their daughters, Ella and Amelia, now step into this new role here in our church family. We had a chance to commission Jake that Sunday, and to lay hands on and pray over the entire Brooks family as we formally welcomed them as a church. We are so excited for this next season of what God is doing at Community Church!

We also had a chance to express our gratitude to Suz Skinner, whose role as our Interim Coordinator of Community Life

drew to its conclusion at the end of June. We heard from Suz that same Sunday about how excited she was about what God was doing in the life of the church and in her own life. Before coming on staff with us, Suz gained certification as a Spiritual Director, and she's been able to continue to invest in this practice of journeying alongside people and listening to the Lord together with individuals who are seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus and follow his leading.

We are so grateful for Suz, for all the ways she has invested in our church community this year; and we were delighted to welcome Jake to this new role as our Associate Pastor of Discipleship!





sabbatical

This year, the Elders and the Leadership Team of the church recognized that Pastor Tim was experiencing a level of exhaustion and depletion that was affecting him and his family in significant ways. Tim has been in ministry at Community Church for 19 years. Starting as a volunteer worship leader, he served a few years as an Associate Pastor before receiving the call to be the Lead Pastor in 2005. For the last 13 years, Tim and his wife Joanna and their whole family have given themselves to love and serve Jesus and this church. But after almost two decades of ministry, the leadership of the church recognized the need for a season of rest and renewal.

The church became aware of the National Clergy Renewal Grant, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and administered by Christian Theological Seminary. The grant provides up to \$50,000 for a four-month sabbatical for pastors who have been in ministry for significant periods of time. The application process was long and detailed. The church had to provide historical context and present a compelling case for a sabbatical for Pastor Tim. We also had to develop a complete plan for all four months, including dates and locations and every cost involved for the duration of the season away. There were certain requirements to the grant. For

example, cross-cultural travel was strongly encouraged to ensure the applicant and their family experience something categorically different from their daily lives. The grant also required that the sabbatical have a theme in order to provide a structure to the time away that will facilitate the renewal process.

In September of this year, we were informed that the Bushfields and Community Church had indeed been awarded this grant, and we were delighted to announce that from January through April of 2019, the Bushfields would enjoy a season of rest and renewal through a four-month sabbatical from ministry. We are so excited to provide this time away for Tim and his family. We are also so grateful to the Lord for the National Clergy Renewal Program, and the funding that comes along with it, that will allow the Bushfields to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience. This sabbatical truly is a gift from God, and we're so excited for the Bushfields. We are also so excited as a church for the ways Tim's season of being away can be a catalyst for growth and leadership development here at the church.

This fall, having received the sabbatical grant, we were able to start getting ready! Pastor Tim taught a class on Spiritual

Journaling, which included having the class participants make their own hard-cover, case-bound journals across the four weeks of the class. The whole church had a chance to have a sending dinner together at the Gloucester House -- a time to honor Pastor Tim and his family, but more importantly, a time to honor the Lord Jesus and his continuing provision for our church family. As this report is being published, the Bushfields will have begun their sabbatical. Please continue to pray for the rest and renewal Tim and his family need, and that they will return to us refreshed and excited to continue in ministry here for years to come!

The following excerpts come from our grant application, describing the theme and the proposed components of the sabbatical we hoped to be able to provide for Pastor Tim and his family. They are included below for your information and for posterity, celebrating the way the Lord continues to faithfully provide more than we could ever ask or imagine!

sabbatical application excerpts

Provide a summary statement describing the overall character and purpose of the renewal program you are proposing.

Community Church of East Gloucester is a church with a story to tell, and Pastor Tim is our chief storyteller. Since 1863 this church has been celebrating the story of Jesus and offering life in His Name. During the 16 years Tim has been a pastor here, he has faithfully proclaimed this story with us.

For example, each year at Advent we darken our sanctuary and invite our friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday mornings as Tim preaches by writing stories based on the biblical texts. Or consider that over the last 13 years, Tim has taught systematically through the story of the Bible from the opening pages of Genesis, culminating in this past year's fall teaching series on "The Big Story of the Bible." At one point, Tim even had us building a literal ebenezzer – a big pile of rocks at the front of the church – to help us remember our stories of how "thus far the Lord has helped us." We have also worked hard as a church to equip one another to tell our own stories of how God has been at work in our lives, in order to share our lives and God's love with those around us. As a result, we have seen God revitalize our little New England church from just a few dozen people to as many as 250 people (including tons of kids!) who are passionate about the love of Christ and committed to sharing God's great story. Tim has also been focused on journeying with us, in each of our own stories, faithfully pointing us to Jesus by leading and teaching, counseling and guiding, mentoring and equipping, and by laughing with us and weeping with us. We are a "storied" church!

The city of Gloucester also has a story. It's a city rich with history, as it is the oldest continually active fishing port in America. Its most famous landmark is a statue down by the ocean of a fisherman at the wheel. There's an inscription on the base of the statue from Psalm 107: "They that go down to the sea in ships." The statue is a memorial to those who have lost their lives at sea so that we who live in Gloucester will always remember. But our city has something else it needs to remember. While our city was once known for its industry, its identity is now marred by the prevalence of addiction and brokenness. Our city has forgotten the most important story of all, namely, the story of God's love. This is where our church comes in, for the opening verses of this very same Psalm invite us to tell our story:

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.*

Our mission as a church is "to make disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city." It is our commitment as a church to be here for another 150 years, continuing to "tell the story" of God's relentless love for the city of Gloucester and the whole world. As we pursue this goal, we recognize that a season of rest and renewal is necessary for Pastor Tim and his family. More than just rest, we believe they need to remember their own place in God's story of love for them if they are to continue to champion His great story for our city. It is our desire to see Tim and his family serving from a place of overflow. We believe

that a sabbatical for Pastor Tim is an investment in our church's future, an investment in the city of Gloucester, and an investment in the kingdom of God that will allow God's great story to be proclaimed for years to come!

Provide a clearly articulated rationale for engaging in the clergy renewal program. Include a discussion about why this is an appropriate time for the pastor and congregation to participate. To present a strong application, please give careful thought to the connection between the purpose, the proposed activities and your rationale. Programs that are coherent, well-integrated and possess a degree of thematic unity often are the most compelling. Your responses to these first two questions should convey these characteristics.

The church has spent the last four years in a state of staffing transition. This process began with the church's co-pastor (Tim's dear friend and ministry partner) answering God's call to a church in Maine. While these have been challenging years, God has used them to build stability and He has reinforced and strengthened our collaborative leadership structure. This past February, we also hired a new associate pastor from within our church family. Hiring from within has greatly facilitated his transition into the new role. By the time the proposed sabbatical begins, the new associate pastor will have had a year-and-a-half to be well-prepared for Tim's time away.

The staffing transition has taken up much of the church leadership's time and attention as well. This focused our attention on the future. This sabbatical, however, gives the church a chance to reflect on what God has already done, and to celebrate his faithfulness through all the transition, even as the Lord prepares us for the next chapter in His story.

These transition years have also allowed a number of other leaders within the church take on new responsibilities. It has provided opportunities to identify and grow new leaders. As a result, we have a stronger leadership structure than ever. Our collaborative leadership model allows the church to share the responsibility for filling in during Tim's sabbatical.

Unavoidably, Tim has taken on extra responsibility during these years of transition. This has taken an extra toll on him and his family. Ultimately, we hope this sabbatical will give Tim a chance to rest, but also an opportunity for renewal and reflection. It is our wish for Tim to remember what the Lord has done, even as he is energized for a new season of ministry and the next chapter of God's story here with us. We would love to give his family this extended time to heal, reflect, connect, and play.

Present a thorough narrative description of the pastor's activities and timeline for the renewal program. Include a brief description and a rationale for each of these activities. This section is where you will give the fullest description of your plans and describe how the pieces fit together into a coherent whole. Use the Outline of Renewal Program form to list in sequence the proposed date(s) for each activity and the names of any family members or associates who will attend or travel with the pastor as a part of this program.

The design of this sabbatical will provide experiences that will facilitate the “remembering of God’s story,” preparing Pastor Tim and his family for a new season of sharing God’s story with our church and our city, in four main ways:

The first part of this sabbatical will focus on Tim’s own personal relationship with Jesus as he “remembers God’s story” of love for him. Starting with a weekend away with his wife, Joanna, to kick off the sabbatical, Tim will head to an off-grid cabin in Maine for a week alone with God. This will give him the opportunity to remember God’s story in his own life. Intentional time with his spiritual director to start and end the week will play a role in guiding this time of remembrance and rest. It is our desire that Tim begins his sabbatical by reflecting on his last 16 years as a pastor at our church to find refreshment in God’s faithfulness. We believe that returning to a place of spiritual health and experiencing renewal is the best thing that Tim can do for his family, our church, and this city.

Secondly, Tim will “remember God’s story” of love for his family as they rent a house in Costa Rica for a month. Free from the irregular schedule of ministry and the interruptions to family life, and delighting in God’s creation, the Bushfields will cultivate a sense of wonder at how the God of the Universe sees and loves even them. Through homeschooling, playing on the beach, exploring the rainforest canopy, and learning to surf, they will intentionally seek to reconnect as a family and remember God’s specific call on their lives to live sacrificially and missionally as a family in Gloucester.

We also want the Bushfields to “remember God’s story” is something so much bigger than just their family, or even our church, but that God’s story is truly global. We plan to send the Bushfields to a Watoto Village in Kampala, Uganda. Our church has hosted the Watoto Children’s Choir a number of times (again this coming fall), and the Bushfields sponsor a child there. The Bushfields, especially their children, would benefit from seeing God’s story in the developing world. We want them to be so captivated with God’s compassion and greatness that they come home inspired and excited to continue sharing the story of His love! Included in this sabbatical plan is also a two-week window where the Bushfields will be at home, re-integrating their children back into school after their extended time away, and establishing a “healthy home.” Part of God’s continuing story for them is to develop healthy, balanced rhythms for daily life that include Jesus in intentional ways.

After settling their kids back into the rhythms of life and school, we also aim to help Tim and Joanna “remember God’s story” for them in their marriage. In 2019, Tim and Joanna will celebrate 20 years of marriage, 19 of which have been spent at Community Church together. We want their marriage to flourish -- for their own sake, for the sake of their children, and also as a model for our church and our city. We want God’s great story to be reflected in their marriage so that they might in all ways reflect God’s glory and point others to Him. We will send them on an 8-day cruise in the Mediterranean, touching some of the ports where New Testament churches once stood, that they might connect their own story with God’s great story as revealed in Scripture, reminding them that their lives – even their marriage – can grow and flourish and point people to Jesus.

The final part of this sabbatical plan will take place a few months later. Tim will take a final week away at a lake house in Maine as a post-sabbatical check-in. Meeting again with his spiritual director, Tim will take the week to evaluate the few months since returning from the sabbatical to ensure that he is establishing and maintaining new, sustainable rhythms for ministry that will mitigate against potential burnout in the future as he strives to honor God, love his wife, delight in his kids, and share God's great story with his church and this city for many years to come!

Provide a statement written by the pastor that describes the intended benefits, both for the pastor and for the congregation, of the program as planned.

It is with gratitude that I apply for this sabbatical grant, and should it be awarded, my hope is for so much more than just rest; I genuinely desire renewal in my relationship with Christ and my sense of calling within His great story. Psalm 107 speaks directly to my desire to remember and give thanks to the Lord for He is good. I want to remember that His love endures forever. I believe that effective ministry must start with my own relationship with the Lord – something that is showing signs of becoming calloused across these last few years of ministry, as compassion fatigue sets in and exhaustion displaces excitement after 16 years.

I also see this as a chance to strengthen my relationship with my children. My eldest son, Justin, is just two years away from heading off to college, and his sister Tessa is only one year behind him. This chapter of "their story" has almost concluded! My family will directly benefit by making memories together even as they prepare to leave home. Additionally, in 2019, Joanna and I will also be celebrating 20 years of marriage. For our honeymoon all those years ago, we backpacked through Costa Rica together. It will be so special to take our kids back to one of the earliest places in "our story" as a couple.

Joanna and I would also benefit greatly from the time alone together, apart from the kids. The chance to spend 8 days wandering together through the ports along the Mediterranean would let us get to know each other again in the midst of the chaos and fury of raising a family together. I would have the chance to court my wife all over again, with uninterrupted time to ask her good questions and truly listen to her heart without distraction. I would love the chance to "fall in love" all over again, "remembering God's story" in our lives, fueling renewal in our marriage for years to come.

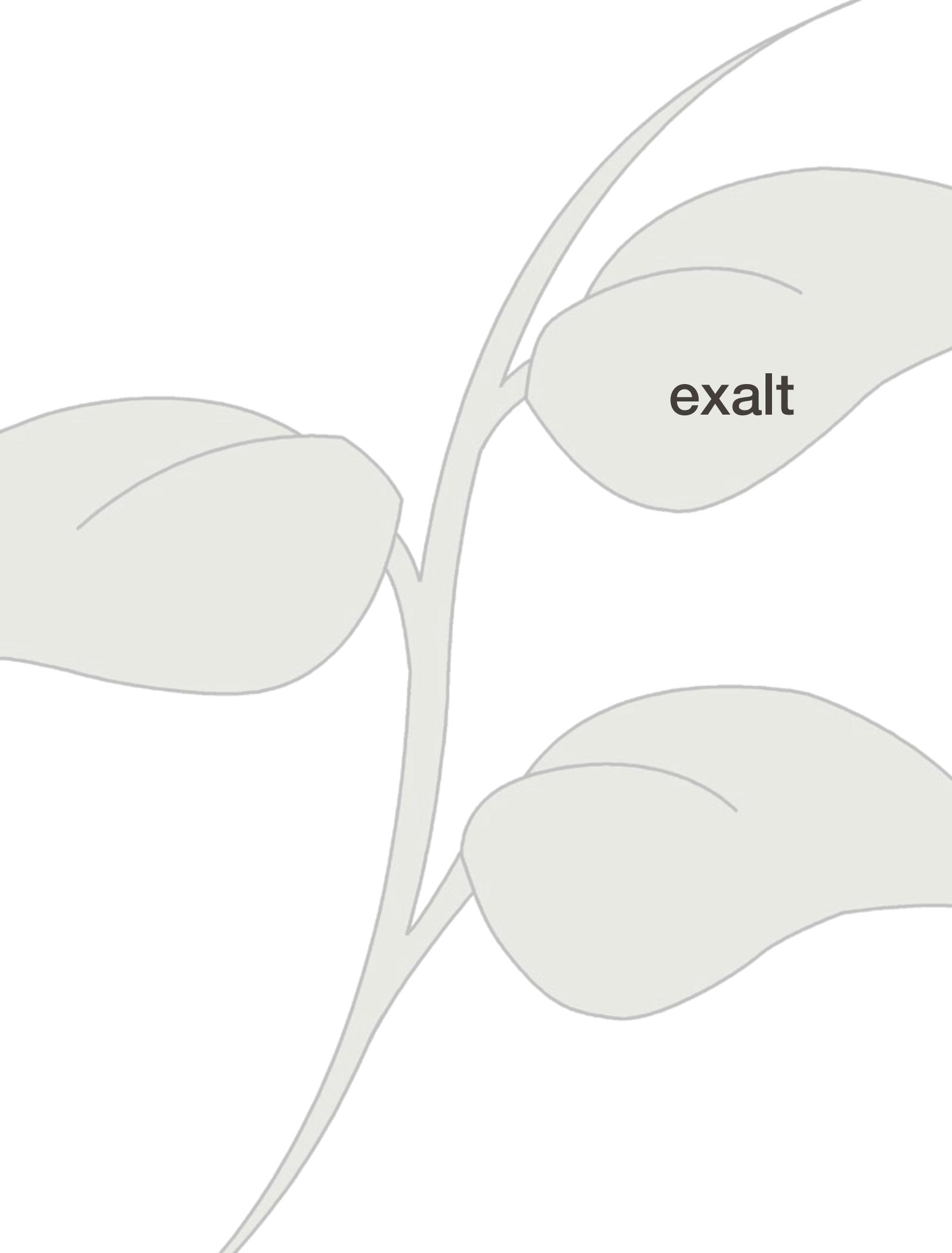
I also believe that Community Church will be blessed during this season. We have worked hard over the years to establish a collaborative leadership model at the church. In my absence, we have gifted and godly leaders that will be able to embrace their role in God's story in new ways. The elders and I believe that my short-term absence will actually be a catalyst for leadership development and spiritual growth. I am also excited to explore journaling as a way of teaching our church how to notice God's story and share it with people around them. I love making journals, and have dreamed about developing this spiritual discipline here for years. So more than merely providing rest, this sabbatical will help us "remember God's story" and bring renewal so that my family and the entire church family might embrace the Psalmist's invitation to tell our stories of God's goodness and love. This is a forward-looking sabbatical

that is designed to refocus both me and this church on our calling to “make disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city” as we continue to share God’s great story with all those who call Gloucester home.

Provide a similar statement written by a representative of the congregation that describes the intended benefits both for the congregation and the pastor. This statement should summarize the congregation’s views and should be incorporated into the body of the proposal. Do not include letters from individual members of the congregation.

For our church, we believe Tim’s sabbatical will provide: (1) A reminder that Jesus is leading our church, not just Pastor Tim and the Elders/Leadership Team. (2) Reinforcement of a church culture that celebrates “the priesthood of all believers” -- encouraging each of us to see ourselves as ministers of the Gospel. (3) An opportunity for new leaders to be raised from within the congregation, and for existing leaders to grow in new ways. (4) Growth in the spiritual discipline of journaling, learning as a church to slow down and notice God’s hand at work in us and around us. (5) Growth in our ability and desire to “tell our stories” as we share with one another, even from our journal reflections, during and upon the completion of this sabbatical time period.

We also intend to see some very real and tangible benefits for Pastor Tim.: (1) We want Tim first and foremost to rest and heal after a challenging season of ministry that has lasted 16 years, especially after the last four years of staffing transition. (2) We desire to see renewal in Tim’s own relationship with the Lord, restoring his soul and returning him to the place of ministering out of overflow of a close relationship with Jesus. (3) Just as important is our desire to see Tim continue to invest in his family and his marriage, making memories together and remembering their love for one another and their love for Jesus. (4) We also anticipate that, coming back after four months away and finding that the church is still here and healthy and whole, that this time will help Tim continue learn that the weight and responsibility for this church rests on God’s shoulders and not his. (5) We want Tim to hear from our church how valued he is, most clearly through the send-off and the welcome home, but also through the submission of this application and the pursuit of this grant, as we celebrate the Bushfield family and the impact they have had at Community Church.



exalt



preaching ministry

As a church, we are committed to the authority and entire trustworthiness of the Bible. It tells us who God is; it tells us who we are in relation to Him; and it introduces us to Jesus as the one who rescues us from our sin and restores our relationship with our God. In light of this, we continue to teach and preach primarily by studying books of the Bible together on Sunday mornings. This allows God to bring the topics that are important to Him to the forefront of our community. Occasionally, we do preach topical series, but even when we do, we work to ensure that we are faithful to the Scriptures and that we preach expository sermons on the various aspects of whatever topic is under consideration.

The Preaching Team

We continue to employ a distinct and even unique approach to our teaching ministry here at Community Church. For every major teaching series each year, we assemble a diverse group of people to form a team that studies, outlines, amplifies, and evaluates the sermons that get preached on Sunday mornings. Meeting every single week throughout the series, this team commits a tremendous amount of time, prayer, study, and even laughter as it strives to clearly understand what the text says and then to clearly apply its main idea to our lives today. This past year, we also spent some time clarifying the commitments, the expectations, and even the criteria by which we determine what a “good” sermon is.



Going Deeper

During the Fall season, our incredible Preaching Team put in countless hours of study, prayer, and preparation to serve our church body with a new discipleship resource called Going Deeper. For many years Suz Skinner had worked to develop a weekly resource available on the website to help augment the sermons preached on Sundays. This Fall, the Preaching Team built upon that foundation and offered challenging devotional questions that we sent out daily through the church email and app, which served for many as challenging reflections and discipleship practices used in personal quiet times, one-on-one discipleship, and small groups. God’s Word is living and active, and we are so blessed to be gifted as a church body with so many who want to see God’s word alive and stirring their hearts to follow Jesus more!

“

Just wanted to tell you (and the team) how much I appreciate the daily emails of going deeper. For me, it is a great way to keep God at the focus of my day.

-Ashley Gullett

”

January Prayer Nights

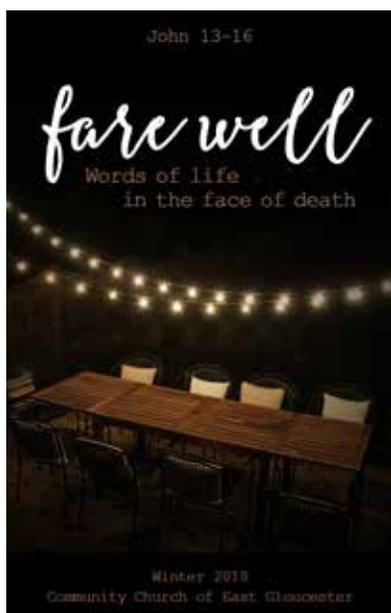
As we began the new year, we delved into the book of Jonah to see what God had to say about prayer through the life, rebellion, and ministry of Jonah. During the series, we gathered on Wednesday night each week to spend time growing in intimacy with God through prayer. These nights were a gift, and I can think of no better way to begin our year than turning to the Lord in prayer!



Jonah: Overthrown by God January 2018

In January we began the year in prayer with the book of Jonah as a guide. Jonah is a good lesson from a bad example. It's the story of hearts being overthrown by God. It's the story of God using a very childish prophet to accomplish his purposes. One of the real beauties of this book is that it is filled with prayer. Jonah is not a book written to teach on prayer – but, you can't read it and not feel drawn into how God is actively in conversation with our world, actively in conversation in Jonah's life, and persistently speaking his love and mercy to us today.

During the series, we gathered on Wednesday nights each week to spend time growing in intimacy with God through prayer. Each prayer night was an absolute gift – and helped us to begin the year by spending time with the Lord!



Farewell: John 13-16 February-April 2018

In February, we picked back up where we last left off in the Gospel of John. During the winter, we studied Jesus' last words to His disciples at the last supper — an intimate dinner with people he loved. From footwashings to new commandments, and from betrayal to denial, Jesus instructed his disciples on how to live, knowing full well that he was about to die... and rise again.

This Year's Teaching Series

Our teaching began with Jake Brooks talking about his regrettable tattoos and a short series in Jonah and Prayer. In February, we continued studying the Gospel of John by focusing on Jesus' farewell discourse with our series, "Farewell: Words of Life in the Face of Death." After Easter, we zoomed in on Jesus' high-priestly prayer in John 17 with a series called "Listen." In June we celebrated "June-rosity" with a four-week series on giving entitled "Giving is a Heart Condition." The summer was a time to enjoy the Good News of the Gospel as our Preaching Team focused on a different metaphor each week that helps us understand just how good the Good News of Jesus really is.

We kicked off the fall with our annual "Why Church?" series, exploring why we gather, and when we scatter. We tackled the idea of renewal through the rest of the fall as we studied the book of Ezra together. Finally, Advent saw a return to our tradition of darkening out the sanctuary, lighting candles, and preaching through storytelling as we considered "The Questions of Advent,"

engaging our imaginations in the stories of Mary, Joseph, Herod, and the Shepherds as they grappled with real questions that continue to require real answers even today.

The Point of It All

Preaching matters. At least, good preaching matters. Sunday mornings continue to be a central, defining aspect of our life together as a church. We gather to worship, to learn, and to partner with the Spirit to bring our lives into alignment with God's purposes for His glory and for the good of those around us. From Sunday to Sunday, our community continues to orient itself around the beauty and majesty (and challenge and danger) of the Word of God. We continue to delight in God's Word as the source of truth, guidance, and purpose as we strive to



Giving is a Heart Condition June 2018

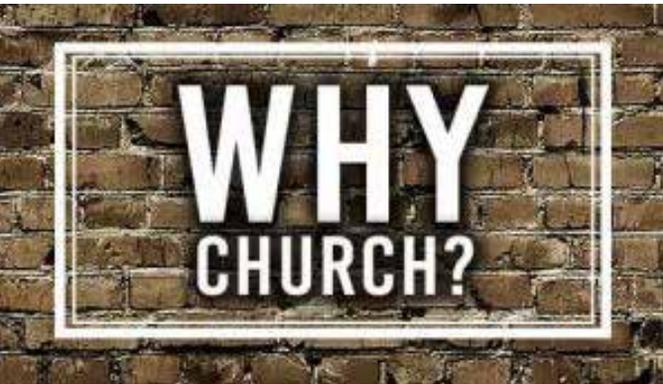
No one is comfortable when the church starts talking about money. So we went for it. The Bible talks a lot about money: Sixteen of Jesus' parables are about money or possessions. One out of every ten verses in the Gospels deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers around 500 verses on prayer and around 500 verses on faith, but more than 2000 verses deal with money and possessions. So let's get uncomfortable together, because giving is a reflection of what's going on in our hearts. We took the entire month of June to discover that giving is a heart condition!

The Good News Summer 2018

During the summer we celebrated "The Good News" of the gospel, and how God has good news for each of us yesterday, today, and tomorrow in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible paints us a picture of how good and how newsworthy the gospel is through beautiful metaphors. God uses these metaphors in scripture to display the good news in a way that meets each and every one of us in our deepest needs. The summer was a time for us to hear afresh, or perhaps for the first time, how good and how newsworthy "The Good News" really is, and that it has forever changed our world!

the Good
News

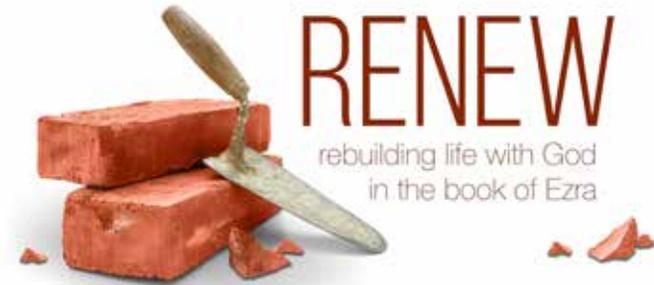




Why Church?
September 2018

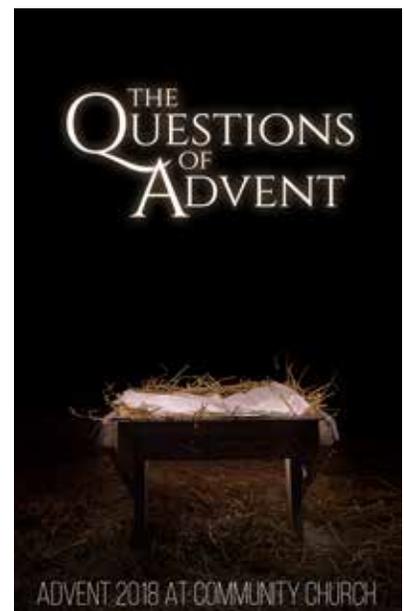
Fall is the time of year when school starts; sports teams start up; calendars begin to fill up with dinner clubs and volunteer opportunities and so much more. Why do we make time for church? Why do we gather together Sunday after Sunday, and how does this affect our lives when we head back out for the rest of the week and the rest of our lives? We took two weeks to explore what the Bible says about “Why Church?” by looking at Why We Gather each week, and also how to live When We Scatter. As a church, we seek God’s best for our lives... together.

make disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city. The more closely our lives reflect and embody the truth of the Scriptures through this kind of corporate discipleship, the more glory comes to Jesus and the better we are able to bless and serve our city while pro-claiming the beautiful truth that Jesus saves.



Renew (the book of Ezra)
September-November 2018

After seventy years of exile and some of the darkest years God’s people had ever seen, a Persian king sends them back home to rebuild their worship, their city, and their relationship with God. We spent the fall studying the book of Ezra, exploring the idea of renewal from a number of different angles as we watched renewal unfold in Ezra’s day... and as we seek it in our own. We also launched a new discipleship resource called “Going Deeper” which provided daily reflection questions and spiritual exercises to reinforce and explore what we learned each week.



The Questions of Advent
December 2018

The sanctuary was dark. The candles were lit. The stars were hanging overhead. The carols were sung, and we preached by telling stories. For this year’s Advent season, we explored some of the questions on the hearts and lips of those we find in the birth narratives in the Gospels. From Mary and Joseph, to Herod, and even the shepherds, we explored the questions they asked, like, “How can this be?” We saw that we’re still asking these same questions... and God is still answering with beauty and power and hope.

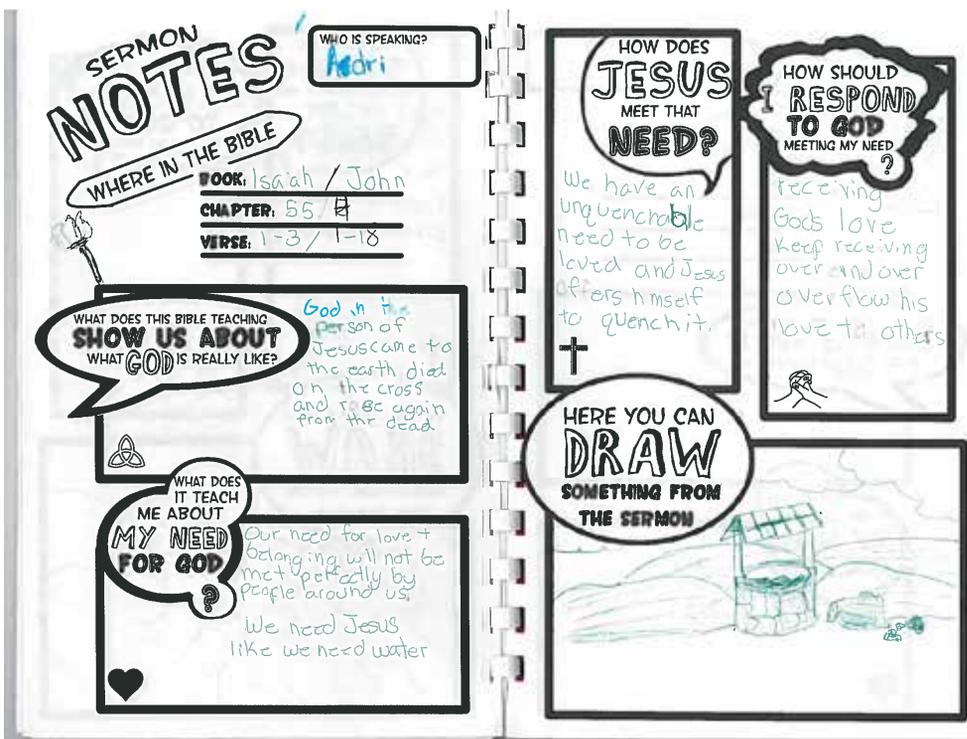
children's journals

This year, as we were preparing to invite our older students, third grade and up, to join the worship services during the summer, we created some journals to help and encourage them engage in the experience. These journals continued to be popular and widely used into the fall when we transitioned to holding the Sunday School hour before the worship service, and even more children now participate in the first part of the service each week.



Journals in Action

Thanks, Bailee Militello for letting us share this example from your church journal. We love seeing how this tool is being used to help you process what you're hearing in the sermons!





worship teams



Sanctuary at Advent

Once again, the sanctuary was darkened for Advent, with lit candles to remind us that Jesus is the light breaking into the darkness

As I reflect on 2018 for our worship teams, the thing that stands out to me most is the way our teams function so well together. Many of us have been playing together for a number of years now, and that makes such a difference when we're up there leading together on Sunday. I am so grateful for each and every team member who has served over this last year and for the time they are willing to put in towards leading our church in song on Sunday mornings. Looking forward to 2019, I am hoping that we can start to develop and encourage some new leaders. We would also like to find ways to get the whole group together more often to pour into our team members as we study scripture and just do life together.

-Amanda Matczynski

2018 Worship Team Members

David Broberg
 Jacqueline Broberg
 Tim Bushfield
 Katie Castelluccio
 Peter Crossman
 German Disla
 Craig Herrmann
 Amanda Matczynski
 Jakub Matczynski
 Michael Mitchell
 Rachel Mitchell

Matt Nilan
 Mike Orie
 Rachel Orie
 Katie Pelletier
 Andiana Sidell
 Dean Sidell
 Aaron Smith
 Stephanie Smith
 Noah VanLannen
 Stephen Zacchigna



Soulfest

Our own German Disla performing with his band at Soulfest



Worship Team Leaders

Our Worship Team leaders gathered around the fire for some fellowship and planning



Hangin' with Christy

A few women from our church at the Freedom Project Tour worship night in NH with their "new friend", Christy Nockels (worship leader/songwriter who's produced a number of the songs we sing together on Sunday mornings)

“

There are so many Sundays when I am up at the front leading worship and I find myself on the verge of tears because I look up and see the congregation singing and worshiping their God. Yes, that may just be the high of Sunday morning, but to me it is a beautiful picture of God working in the hearts of our church body.

-Amanda Matczynski

”



holy week



Maundy Thursday Banquet

We gathered around a feast to celebrate Maundy Thursday and remember Jesus' instructions at the Last Supper



Easter Pancake Breakfast

Our awesome kitchen crew making breakfast: Dean Sidell, Drew Sidell, Craig Herrmann and Jane Herrmann pictured



During Holy Week 2018 we focused on the 'Set Apart' nature of the week in preparation for recalling the work of Jesus on the Cross and the victory over death in the Resurrection. Each day during Holy week a special devotional was sent out across the church, challenging us to set apart the week. Pastor Jake Brooks lead us in a time of remembering the Last Supper as the moment of Passover finding its ultimate meaning in Jesus. Our mentored ministry students, David Broberg and Jess Joles, led our Good Friday Tenebrae service, where families from our church read the 'Passion' texts. On Sunday morning we joined, once again, with the Gloucester Assembly of God Church for our sunrise service at Bass Rocks, then Pastor Tim shared with us about the joy and hope of Easter during our Easter morning worship service back at the church. Holy Week was a full week with incredible opportunities for fellowship and worship of our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ!



Easter Sunrise

Pastor Jim from Gloucester Assembly of God and Pastor Jake from Community Church leading our combined churches in worshipping our Lord as the sun rose behind cloud cover early Easter morning



christmas eve

This year's Christmas Eve service was an absolute blast! The Children once again led us in worship as they worked hard for the month preceding the night to prepare the O Come All Ye Faithful play, organized by Sandy Jones and Katie Castellucio. In Addition, we incorporated some of our favorite elements of our Cookies & Carols events in the past into the night as learned about the carols, sang them together, and enjoyed a time of fellowship with hundreds of cookies, hot cocoa, and crafts! What a joy it was to prepare our hearts and remember the greatest gift ever given – Immanuel, God With Us!



Candle Lighting

This year's Christmas Eve service again featured candle lighting as we sang together, remembering the night of Christ's birth



Worship through Song

The kids helped lead us in worship through song from their places in the nativity



Children's Pageant

The children acted out the Christmas story as the narrative was read from Scripture



seacoast caroling

On the Sunday before Christmas, after rehearsing for Christmas Eve, several of the kids and their families headed over to Seacoast Nursing Home to share some carols with the residents.



“*Caroling at Seacoast brought tears to our eyes, and it was such a Christmas gift. I hope we started a tradition because I felt so blessed by it...*

-Sandy Jones

”



foundations prayer

The Foundations Prayer ministry has been steadily and faithfully lifting up the needs of our church body in prayer before the worship service every Sunday for many years. Once again this year, we are so thankful for those who recognize that prayer is a calling for all of us, but intercession is also a unique spiritual gift that is used to equip God's people. We pray that this ministry would continue to remain faithful as well as grow in impact in 2019!





greeting team

The Greeting Team was led by Steve and Rachel Zacchigna this year and continued to welcome people to Community Church with genuine hearts. Members of the team watched for opportunities to make newcomers feel especially welcome as they entered our church for the first time. Cindy Adams commented on her experience as part of the Greeting Team this year by sharing this story:

“

It was a pleasure to escort a young mom and child to the Sunday School rooms one morning. The child was fidgety and wanted to go to Sunday School but the mom didn't want to walk through the church during the service. I offered to take her down through the fellowship hall, and she was grateful to learn how to navigate the building without disrupting the service.

-Cindy Adams

”



New Friends over Lunch

Jake shared about our church with a table of new and familiar faces as we continued this tradition of inviting newcomers to join us for this special lunch gathering

newcomers' lunch

We were thrilled to be able to host another newcomers' lunch this year in response to seeing the Lord continue to draw more people to worship Him in our midst. Similar to last year, we used this opportunity to get to know some of these newer attenders better and also to share about our church's mission and vision and invite them to engage with us in the work God is doing here. It was a highlight to again see friends who had attending one of these lunches last year help in hosting this time, welcoming the newer folks as they themselves had been welcomed!

sunday nights at the beach

Our tradition of gathering for a relaxed time of fellowship by the footbridge at Good Harbor Beach continued this summer. What a fun, laidback way to enjoy this beautiful place in which we live while sharing the gift of one another's company!



summer picnics

The summer of 2018 once again allowed us the awesome opportunity to get outside and celebrate being a church family through our summer picnics. Once a month in the summer we bust out the tent, the grill, and we host a potluck picnic on the front lawn of the church. These afternoons provide a great space for our church to connect, a great place for our city to see the love in our church family, and also a place for our children to see the church as a place they truly belong! God willing, we look forward to sunny summer picnics again in 2019!

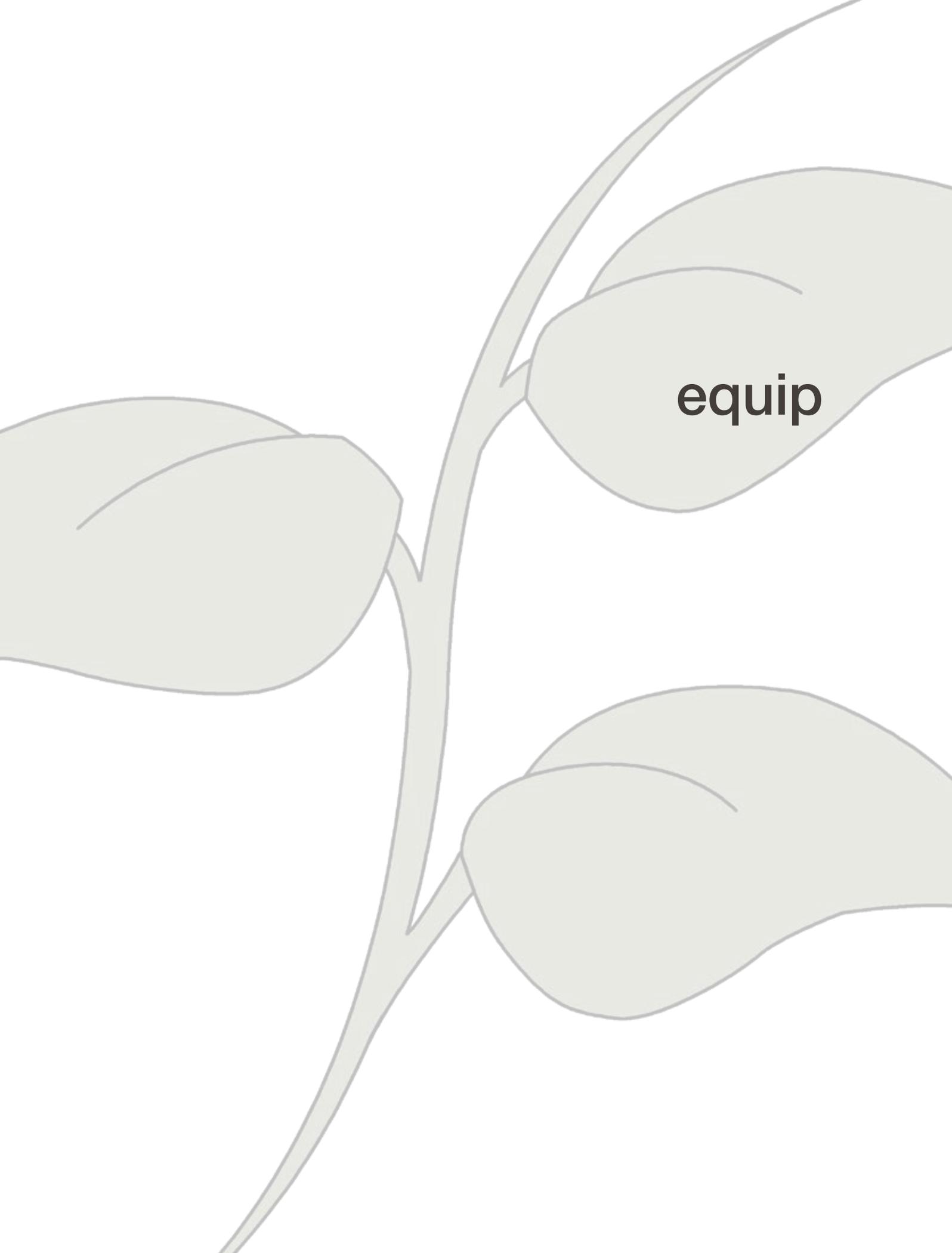




church fairs

As we prepared to head to Gordon College and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary this fall to invite students to consider our church during their time on the North Shore, we identified a key aspect of this invitation: the chance to “Come love our City”. There are lots of great churches in the area where students can worship the Lord Jesus and serve Him as part of a local body. We wanted to invite them to consider falling in love with our city with us this year as we seek to make disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of our city!





equip



It's been a year of some changes in The Cove, but we are really excited about updates to the space and schedule, addition of youth helpers, and growth in the children we serve.

Our new Sunday morning schedule has brought some positive changes to the dynamic in the nursery. During the service hour, three year olds join the nursery after their Sunday school hour. This inspired some of the rearranging of furniture so that our older nursery friends would have more space to move and play. Being in the nursery with this age group has really been a blast. They are at an age where they understand that their parents will be back soon, and they've come from an hour of engaged learning. When they arrive at the Cove, this cohort of Harper, Opal, Ella, Quinn, Griffin, Gabe and the occasional four year old are excited to play together. It is this age group that we have seen really notice and enjoy the newer toys. New pretend food and utensils have made the play kitchen one of their favorite spots. The fresh supply of play-doh has also brought them all to the table to play and build together. This is also the age group that is thrilled to have youth helpers to play with.

Our youth helpers have been a wonderful addition to The Cove. Some of our upper elementary through high school youth are really excited to spend time with the babies and toddlers of our church. It's been encouraging to see them eagerly checking the schedule for their week, and we were so happy to celebrate the service they are doing through the youth helper luncheon. One specific instance that comes to mind with youth helpers was when Casey Carver-Brown was really missing her mom and was feeling sad in nursery. Jeremiah Bushfield jumped in to help her, after our adult efforts had failed, and got her giggling and smiling by playing with the squeaky eggs in the kitchen. Another sweet moment was when Abi Ward was on the toddler side, and they spent almost the



Sharing Time!
Amelia and Reuben practicing their sharing skills



Who Doesn't Love Books?!

Story time is always a favorite for the kids, whether they're piled in a corner with one of our elders (Chris Love) or chilling with the youth helpers (Novalee Jones - left, Abi Ward - right)





Look who I Found!

Reuben giggling at his reflection in the mirror



More Sharing

Taking turns pushing the colored balls through their slide



Vroom!

Killian delighting in fast driving cars with Pastor Tim

more nursery!

entire service sprawled across her lap and the rug around her listening to her read story after story.

On the infant side, seeing our babies grow has been so exciting. Reuben Korpi comes to mind as one who we've seen grow so much! He went from an adorable army crawl to being our most mobile and walking one year old. Baby Graham Zacchinga has joined the infant side, and is happy to enjoy the new rock 'n play that is now in the baby area. Amelia Brooks has been rocked to sleep by many nursery volunteers during the Sunday school hour, and Casey Carver-Brown has grown so much that it's not uncommon to hear volunteers mistaking her for her big sister Quinn. What a gift it is to care for the infants and toddlers of our church!

We have some areas we are hoping to grow in during the upcoming year in The Cove. We are talking through what system would be best for snack, sterilizing toys, recording allergies in a way that keeps all volunteers informed, and a cubby system. We have also reflected on the rhythm from the nursery a few years ago that included circle time, storytime, singing, and snack. We are excited to have Miss Wendy in the nursery with her instruments to get us started in one of those areas with some music. Looking back at this past year, it is exciting to see how The Cove has continued to be a place where the children of our church can meet older role models, be cared for, play, laugh, and feel loved. Looking ahead to 2019, we are excited to see more growth in the program and in the children that we serve.

Leah Brooks

The Cove leaders in 2018 included: Brenda Hiltz, Tricia Nicastro, Leah Brooks and Jocelyn Love



children's sunday school

preschool

As I ponder this past year serving the Preschool Sunday School class, I am once again completely humbled to be part of this ministry. I am not serving with these sweet little ones, week in and week out, out of a sense of obligation. The joy and excitement they feel as they're learning about God and enjoying their "own" little church experience is simply magical, and I cannot imagine not being with them! I am blessed to serve alongside a wonderful team consisting of Heshey Sova, Kieran Thompson, Emily Ward, and Nathanael Ward. During summer and the holidays, our staff grows to include Katie Madden, Emily Glover, Deanne Leavitt, Leah Brooks, Jenna & Andy Shaw, Nikki Lewis, Jeremiah Bushfield, Novalee Jones, and Luke Leavitt.

Preschool Sunday school has real rhythms, and there is intentionality behind our routines. We welcome the children with activities geared to set the stage for our lesson; while it may appear we are just "playing" there is so much value to what we are doing. Sometimes we are dressing up as the characters we're learning about, sometimes we are making crafts that speak to the lesson, and sometimes we're building a city or boats that we'll talk about later. After about 20 minutes, we transition into the other classroom and settle in for our time of worship and Bible story. We sing songs to God and hear about the people in the Bible and try to understand how the story we learned about can apply to us. Perhaps, you're thinking I'm crazy after reading that last line? You're probably thinking, "They're 3, 4, and 5. They aren't applying the stories to their lives!" But I'm thinking of a specific example.

We spent the fall learning some of the stories from Genesis. One of those, was the story of Abram. We talked about Abram and Lot sharing land and how there was arguing over their animals' grazing space. They decided to split up, and Abram offered Lot his choice of the land. This discussion evolved into how it can be really hard for us to share things, but God wants us to share just like Abram and Lot. Let me tell you, each child in the class could think of a time it was really hard for them to share something important! Finally, Ella Brooks saved the rest of her snack to share with her mom as a result of the lesson. So, what's happening in preschool Sunday school isn't all that different from what's going on downstairs in church, but it's entirely possible that we're just having a lot more fun!

Melanie Ward





The Armor of God

Carter dressed up for the church-made play reflecting the lesson from Ephesians



Creativity Abounding

The kids work hard on their art projects that remind them of the Bible lessons each week



kindergarten-grade 2

This year in Kindergarten-Grade 2 we started over with our curriculum and jumped back into the Old Testament! One of my goals for this year was to have the children be able to relate to God and to understand that He has feelings just like we do. In order to do this, one thing that has had the children think differently about God is a “collaborative thinking” approach. This is where the Bible story is introduced to the children in real-world situations. For example, during a lesson I explain a situation that might happen to the children that relates to the Bible story (i.e. “your sibling/friend was not kind to you, how would you feel if they were mean to you? What would you do?”) We then discuss it and I write down how they feel on the board. Then we watch the Bible story. After we watch the Bible story we come back to our discussion that we had and discuss how God felt in the Bible story and in the situation. This allows the children to make the connection between themselves and God. It also shows that God feels what we feel and makes Him more relatable and tangible for the children. The children are beginning to grasp that we have an empathetic, loving, and parental God. It has been beautiful to watch the children grow to understand that God has feelings just like we do and understanding that we were made in His image. Whenever we discuss how God feels in certain situations, I am amazed by the children’s answers and how they’ve applied it to their lives. It also is a good reminder that our God is constant from the Old Testament to the New Testament: He’s the same loving God. My hope is that this experience helps to equip the children for when they go out into the world and to understand that God is always faithful no matter what.

Corrine Previte

grades 3-4

For the last three years the Sunday School class has been discovering God's big story through The Gospel Project curriculum, and this summer we completed the end of the curriculum in the book of Revelation. This has been a great commitment from the Sunday school team. We have fully taught and helped the kids discover how the gospel unfolds from Genesis through Revelation. This Fall we started the curriculum again from the beginning in the book of Genesis with the creation story. The fun part is that some of the kids three years ago started the curriculum but were three years younger. They were excited about starting it over again and being three years older!! This has been really exciting to witness!!!

Sandy Jones



So much fun!

Maps, life size self-portraits, and even a ball toss game to help with memorizing Scripture. Sunday School is full of all kinds of ways to interact with truths from the Bible!



Digging into Scripture

The 3rd-4th grade class opening up their Bibles to find and follow along with the morning's story



2018 sunday school teams

Spring:

Preschool - Melanie Ward, Kiearn Thompson, Heshey Sova, Emily Glover

K-1 - Corrine Previte, Carissa Casey, Nikki Lewis, Kirstin Lick

2-5 - Sandy Jones, Nathan Wolters, Jess Joles, Tricia Joles, Aaron Smith, Stephanie Smith, Tom Gillespie, Eric Smith, Bill Baumer, Barbara Baumer

Summer:

Preschool - Melanie Ward, Jenna Shaw, Andy Shaw, Leah Brooks, Emily Glover, Nikki Lewis

K-2 - Sandy Jones, Corrine Previte, Nathan Wolters, Jess Joles, Tricia Joles, Kirstin Lick, Bill Baumer, Barbara Baumer, Eric Smith, Adam Jerome

Fall:

Preschool - Melanie Ward, Kieran Thompson, Heshey Sova

K-2 - Corrine Previte, Kirstin Lick, Carissa Casey

3-4 - Sandy Jones, Michael Mitchell, Alec Willey

5-7 - Matt Nilan, Dan Barbre, Adam Jerome



Cross-Cultural Doxology Exchange

The kids singing the Doxology to send a video to former Sunday School helper, Marina Lavender, in Madagascar. They also watched a video on Miss Audrey's phone that Marina sent back of some of the kids in Madagascar singing the same song in Malagasy!

2018 the harbor for children

This fall, as we transitioned to holding our Sunday School hour at 9:00 am, before the single worship service, we knew we needed to continue to offer something for the youngest of our kids during the service, a “children’s church” of sorts, to help them to have a positive experience of church that addresses their developmental needs (i.e. movement and play, versus sitting still in a pew). So we created The Harbor for Children.

The goal of The Harbor is not instructive -- teaching happens during the Sunday School hour. Rather, it is intended to be a safe place where the kids can come to enjoy a snack and a time of Christ-centered play while they’re at church with us. With nursery care continuing through the worship service, we offered The Harbor to children from preschool--3rd grade, dismissing children from the worship service to head upstairs to The Harbor just before the start of the sermon each week.

the harbor teams

Fall:

Preschool - Deanne Leavitt, Emily Glover, Jess Roberts, Nikki Lewis, Jenna Shaw
K-3 - Sandy Jones, Michele Gossom, Jess Joles, Tricia Joles, Bill Baumer, Barbara Baumer, Nathan Wolter, Janelle Wolters



Taking a break from bowling at Cape Ann Lanes!



Group picture at Camp Berea during Snow Camp!



Chowing down on pizza after the Missing Leaders Scavenger Hunt

The aim of continuing to make YouthCenter a fun, safe and accessible space where students of all backgrounds can be honest and meet Jesus in a real way marched forward in 2018! It was awesome to see students feeling more and more comfortable bringing their unbelieving friends to off-site events and Friday night Drop-In. But even more than that, the real joy was seeing students encounter God's love and truth in new ways or even for the first time!

Rachel, Jackie, Dan and Matt started off the year bringing 17 students up to Camp Berea in Hebron, New Hampshire for our yearly snow camp retreat. It was a great time to take a step back from the grind of our everyday routines and focus in on what God had to say to us!

Throughout the year, Friday Night Drop-Ins at the church were full of everything from singing karaoke, epic ping pong tournaments, and endless games of manhunt, to eating pudding and squid at Fear Factor. In all of the goofiness and fun, relationships with new students were formed and old friendships were strengthened.

Program-wise, 2018 saw the YouthCenter take over Main Street for the first ever Missing Leaders Scavenger Hunt, as well as the return of the second Annual Pumpkin Chuckin competition and the third annual McGiving Formal dinner.

The goal of creating a culture of asking honest questions and seeking truth together continued as both the Girls' group and Guys' Groups met throughout the year.



Youth Sunday School Class

Led by Jackie, Rachel and Janelle, the girls met weekly to pray and encourage one another, learning how to do life together chasing after Jesus. Meeting for dinner on Tuesday nights, the guys group explored asking some of the big questions of the faith.

In the Fall of 2018, we launched a new Sunday School class for middle schoolers during the 9 AM Sunday School hour. Led by Matt and Dan, and co-taught by students Tessa Bushfield, Justin Bushfield, and Adam Jerome, the class has been an awesome time going deep into Scripture. It's been really encouraging to see the students get excited about studying God's Word, as well as seeing the older students teaching and leading the younger ones.

In that vein of equipping student leaders, we partnered with the Children's Ministry and once again hosted a Youth Helpers lunch, to both thank, encourage and equip our students who faithfully serve in both the nursery and Sunday School week in and week out.

It has been an amazing year seeing God at work, and it is a joyous privilege to get to partner with the Lord as He does His thing. We as leaders are both humbled and extremely excited at the task that lays before us, to see the youth of our city encounter Christ and cling to his love.

2018 YouthCenter Trips & Big Events:

- Snow Camp 2018 (February)
- Glow Night (March)
- Karaoke Sing Off (April)
- YC Coffeehouse (June)
- Missing Leader's Scavenger Hunt (September)
- Bowling at Cape Ann Lanes (October)
- 2nd annual "Pumpkin Chuckin" (October)
- 3rd annual McGiving Formal Dinner (November)

2018 Youth Center Leaders

- Dan Barbre
- Rachel Orié
- Matt Nilan
- Jackie Schindler
- Janelle Wolters
- Steve Zacchigna



Gathered 'round the campfire!



Friday Night Drop-In shenanigans!





volunteer equipping and celebrations

youth helpers' lunch

This fall, we had the chance to gather with our youth helpers over lunch in order to express our appreciation for their service and also to spend some time equipping them as they serve. Matt introduced the idea of ministry as an overflow of our relationship with Jesus, then we spent some time in smaller groups talking through and acting out responses to a variety of scenarios that might occur in Sunday School or the Nursery. These exercises encouraged our youth to consider their role in these different ministries where they serve, and also to equip them with ideas for how they might be able to respond to different situations in the future.



lead kids

Back in March, a group of children's ministry teachers and leaders headed to Hampden, MA for the Lead Kids conference -- a day of equipping and encouragement for children's ministry volunteers, put on by Berea's Greenhouse Ministries. We were blessed by the chance to spend the day together, being reminded of the importance of what we do in working with our church's children, and also gleaning new ideas and insights to carry forward in our work. One theme that stood out that has impacted our Sunday School classes already was the awareness of how easy it is for kids to associate stories from the Bible with any other fictional stories or fairy tales they hear, and how important it is to help them to understand the truth of God's word. Some of these teachers have focused more intentionally on getting kids into actual Bibles as they hear the stories each week and reminding them that these stories are indeed true!

celebration breakfast

In December, we had the chance to gather the broad group of children's ministry volunteers for a celebratory breakfast. We are so thankful for each and every one of these volunteers--it truly takes our whole church working together to teach, raise, and care for the many children the Lord has blessed us with. What an awesome responsibility and an incredible team He has pulled together for this work! Thank you all for serving with our church's children!



“*That breakfast was the best I am still talking about it all the time!*
-Sandy Jones”



additional discipleship opportunities



Throughout 2018, at least eight different small groups, a couple of triads, and a number of one on one relationships met in order to encourage and spur one another to grow one step closer to Jesus. At Community Church we desire to see each person in at least one intentional relationship with one another where they are growing together as disciples of Jesus, and we are truly thankful to see so many individuals opening themselves to God’s word and each other. In addition, in the spring and fall seasons we had ‘Disciple Makers’ gatherings where leaders and those desiring to grow in discipling others met to be equipped and grow together in creating a culture of discipleship in our church body. This coming year we pray that God would continue to grow in us a desire to respond to His great commission by being and making disciples in our city!

We asked one of the people we got to baptize last year how God has been growing her this year as she has been involved in small groups and one-on-one discipleship relationships, and here’s what she had to say:

“

How had I grown in trusting and following God?

First I realized my life was incomplete and a mess. As I got to know Jesus I gave myself the opportunity to adopt his teachings by studying and applying it, praying for help in everything the Holy Spirit revealed to me.

My journey—it was very painful to realize so much brokenness in myself. But God always brought me through difficulties, and his faithfulness will fuel me on to keep going in the path that I had chosen. Every time that I go through trials or doubts, I just focus on those moments, because in those moments where God has shown up in my life, it helps me to keep going and growing close to him to the point that he is all that my heart desires, and my fear is to separate myself from him and in an instant be in the same place I was or worse. My relationship with God is Constant and all the ongoing communication is like if I’m talking to the air, like if I’m Breathing.

-Giovanna Itzel

”

small groups

Making disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city is central to everything we do at Community Church. This means that discipleship is not an optional add on piece for only those who want to grow. Following Jesus means being his disciple, which means in every season, intentionally engaging in both being discipled and discipling others. There are a number of ways that this is happening in the life of the body of believers at Community Church, but the primary mechanism that we encourage people to enter into for discipleship is the Small Groups ministry. Small Groups represent gatherings of 6-12 people (kind of like Jesus' own small group) who meet to:

1. Grow through study of God's word and prayer
2. Be in relationship with the body
3. Welcome one another into our lives
4. Be sent into our communities.

These are the four rhythms that every small group seeks to build into what they are doing as a group. We are so thankful for leaders as well as the individuals in groups that met throughout 2018 across Cape Ann and beyond. We pray that God would continue to use this ministry to establish a culture of discipleship at our church!

“ Giving thanks tonight for all of the beautiful ladies who are a part of our Womanuscript Bible Study. It was a blessed time of feasting, laughter, music, prayer and surprise visits from friends.

– Abby Stroven **”**

In a church-wide survey this fall, we asked respondents to “Describe the good things about being part of a small group. How is your small group helping you follow Jesus more?”:

“ Relationships. Getting to join together with men whose only commonality is Christ. Getting to learn and grow as we get to know one another.

–Chris Love **”**



Game Night!

The Beverly small group enjoying fellowship over some friendly competition





women's gatherings

This year, the women of Community Church had a number of different opportunities to gather for times of fellowship, encouragement, and worship of our Lord. From the women's retreat in the spring, to the "James and the Ladies" and "Night of Thanks" evenings at the Bushfield house, and even a casual "Wrap It Up" night before Christmas, it has been a rich year of sharing life and growing together.



Twenty five women from Community Church spent a snowy, New Hampshire weekend away in early April; resting, relationship building, rejoicing and relishing the love of God and the love of one another in Christ! It was a pooling of God's gifts and graces from each one: we delighted in the sharing of song, Scripture, teaching, story, silence, culinary specialties, walks, fireside chats, crafting, stretching and laughing. The theme: Rooted in the Lavish Love of God took us to Psalm 1 and Isaiah 55, and the Spirit of God clearly extended the invitation to "Come". As we came to him, Jesus met us there in our hearts!



“God never disappoints and always delivers! He delivered for me this weekend a blessed community with which to share, learn and grow. Such a blessing to have met with so many of you and heard a piece of your story... thank you Lord and may we all continue to be inspired in the days ahead.

-Janice Lloyd

men's gatherings

The Men's ministry had a successful year in 2018. We've seen God working in this group during the course of 2018 more than in the past few years. The transitioning of Associate Pastors who were organizing and leading men's ministry made it difficult in the past to have such consistency. This was the first year we managed to have or contribute to an event every month!

The events ranged from breakfasts to bonfires and we even mixed in a little bowling. Representatives from the men's ministry leadership team also enjoyed serving on many church events such as coastal cleanup, the harvest party, and VBS.

The different breakfast events we had over the course of the year, in particular, proved to be a great venue for getting together for fellowship, and more importantly, for sharing openly with one another in the presence of God. On top of all that there was bacon!

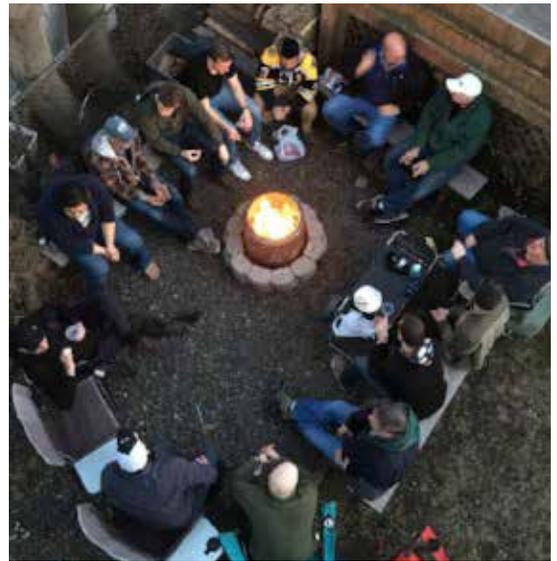
One of the other successful events during the year was the different bonfire gathering at the parsonage. We would gather together in God's presence, break bread together, and share in confession while worshipping in song. The night sky was the perfect backdrop to have the Lord



and the men's ministry group together.

The highlight of the year tends to always be the men's retreat. The focus of this year was the relationships with God and other men in our group. How and where are we committed? Each one of us has met Jesus in unique and different circumstances, and being able to share about His work in our lives is such an incredible opportunity for the men in our church to draw closer together in brotherhood and with Christ.

As a team, we are very encouraged to see how the Spirit has been moving in the lives of not only the team, but all the men involved this past year. In 2019, the men's ministry leadership team is looking forward to building on the momentum of last year by continuing to serve and grow together as disciples of Christ.



Paul Leavitt and Craig Herrmann

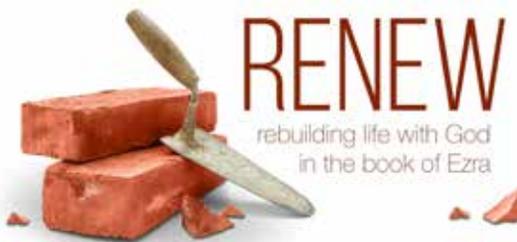




adult sunday school

For the first time in over a decade, Community Church was able to offer Adult Sunday School classes alongside the Children's Sunday School every Sunday morning throughout the fall. From September through November we offered two separate classes that gave a whole new opportunity for our church to be challenged as disciples of Jesus. Suz and Joel Skinner used their involvement on the Preaching Team and work with the Going Deeper daily questions to lead a class that dug deeper alongside of the sermon series in Ezra. A wonderful, almost small group-like gathering of individuals grew together as they were challenged by this book about God renewing his people as they returned from exile. Pam and Dean Sidell, as well as Jocelyn Love were instrumental in helping Pastor Jake host a class called Getting to the Heart of Parenting, which used a video series developed by Paul Tripp. The class was an amazing and beautiful time of being challenged to grow as parents who desire, above all else, to see our children know Jesus! What a gift it was in 2018 to be able to see God moving through these new opportunities. We look forward to 2019 to see how God will use this time to continue to challenge us to trust and follow Him more!

Jake Brooks



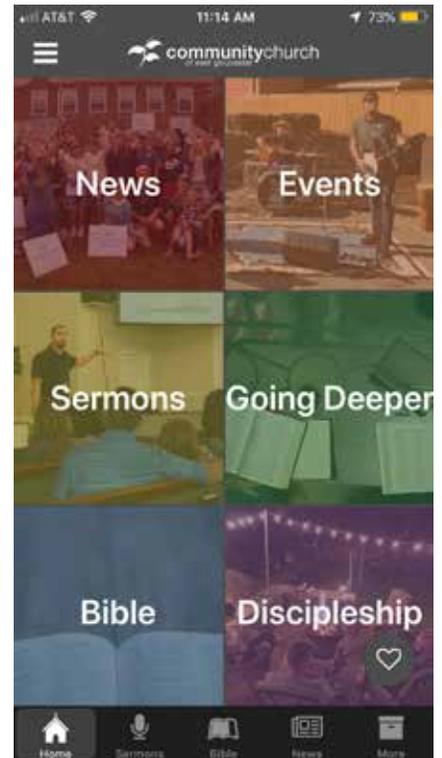
leveraging technology to make disciples

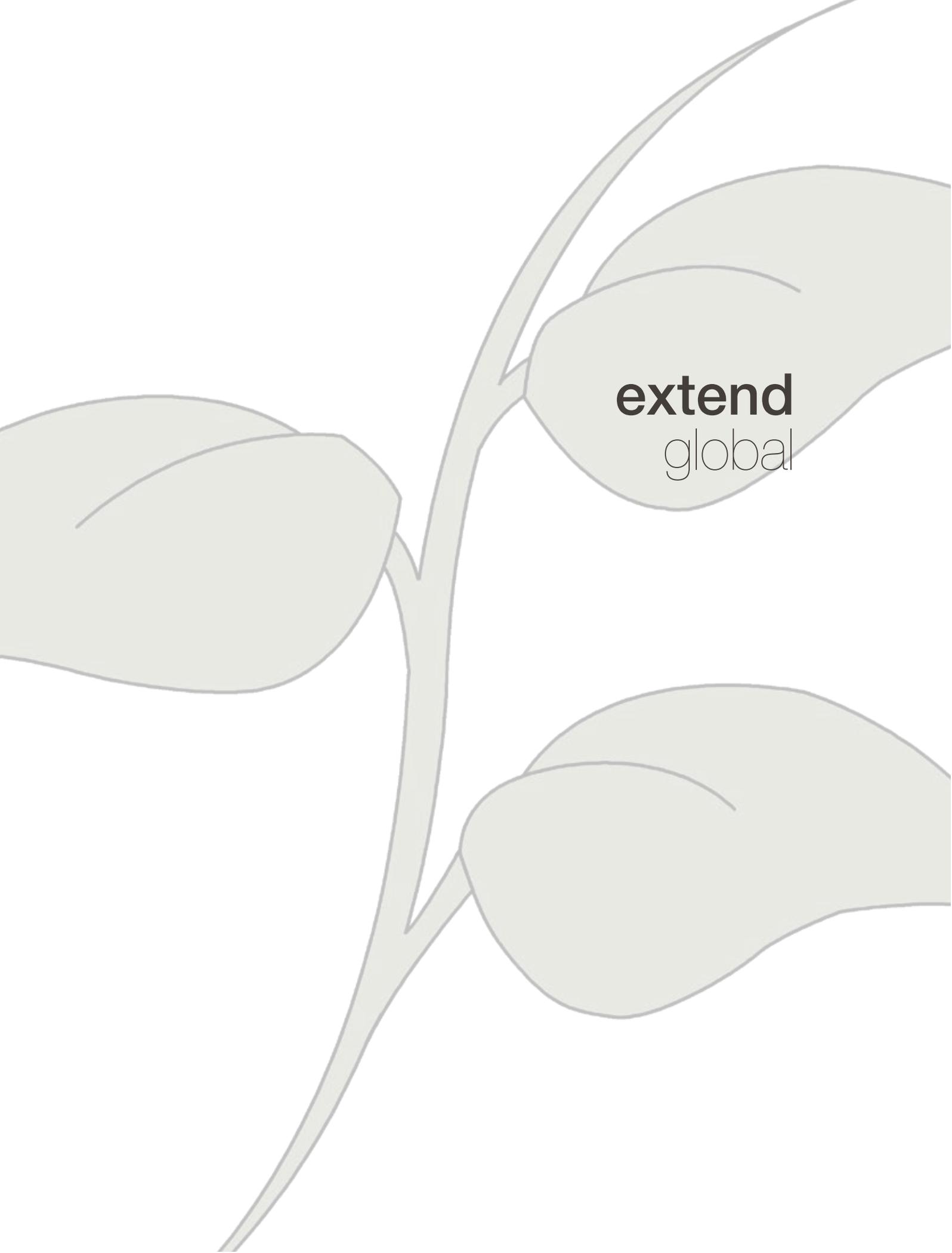
The vast majority of people now interact with the internet on their mobile devices. As a church, we are constantly striving for better ways to communicate, interact, and build community among all those who call Community Church “home.” This year, we did some significant work to continue to improve our ability to grow together as we follow Jesus together.

First, after many years of faithful service, we decommissioned our church website and replaced it with a brand new site, rebuilt from the ground up. The new site is mobile responsive, allowing it to be viewed beautifully on both computers and mobile devices. This provides clarity and accessibility to our website for those who are looking for a church as well as those within our church.

Second, we developed and launched our own Church App for iOS and for Android. The app is yet another way we can focus people on growing together in Christ with easy and clear access to our church calendar, our sermons, our Going Deeper resources, and it even provides a portal for online giving and event registration. This is a significant step to make being a part of Community Church as easy as opening our app to find out the latest news!

There’s nothing inherently valuable in having a slick website or a church app. They are just tools. But as tools, it is our hope that they will provide even more ways for people to connect into genuine, authentic community as followers of Jesus as we seek to make disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city!





extend
global



global outreach partnerships

Our church has been blessed with the means to continue supporting our global outreach partners. Throughout this year, “champions” for each of our Global Outreach partners have been prayerfully supporting and connecting with these partners. The work that God is doing through our partners around the globe is tremendous – and it truly is a great privilege to be able to support them. In addition to our regular support, this year, during our Lenten Giving, we were able to pray for and raise support for the Stevenson family in Detroit Michigan. The money raised was able to directly help them in their sudden need for a new vehicle. We even had the opportunity to hand-deliver this gift, via Pastor Tim, who headed to Detroit to be present for Leon’s installation as the Lead Pastor of Mack Ave Community Church. In the coming years we will be continuing to seek out how God may be leading us to extend the Good News of Jesus globally through our ongoing support as well as through short term trips.

Our 2018 GO partners:

Leon and Rebecca Stevenson: pastoral ministry and community outreach in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan - in 2018, Leon became the Lead Pastor for Mack Ave Community Church

champion: Joanna Bushfield



Tim with the Stevensons

Visiting during Leon’s installation weekend

Becky Lahna: pastoral ministry and church planting in Santa Barbara, California

champion: Abby Stroven



Our 2018 GO partners, continued:



Mat and Kayle Pelletier: serving and teaching in theological education in South Africa
champions: Chris and Jocelyn Love



John and Mary Jean Tempelhoff: serving with Cru in Durban, South Africa
champion: Sara Martin

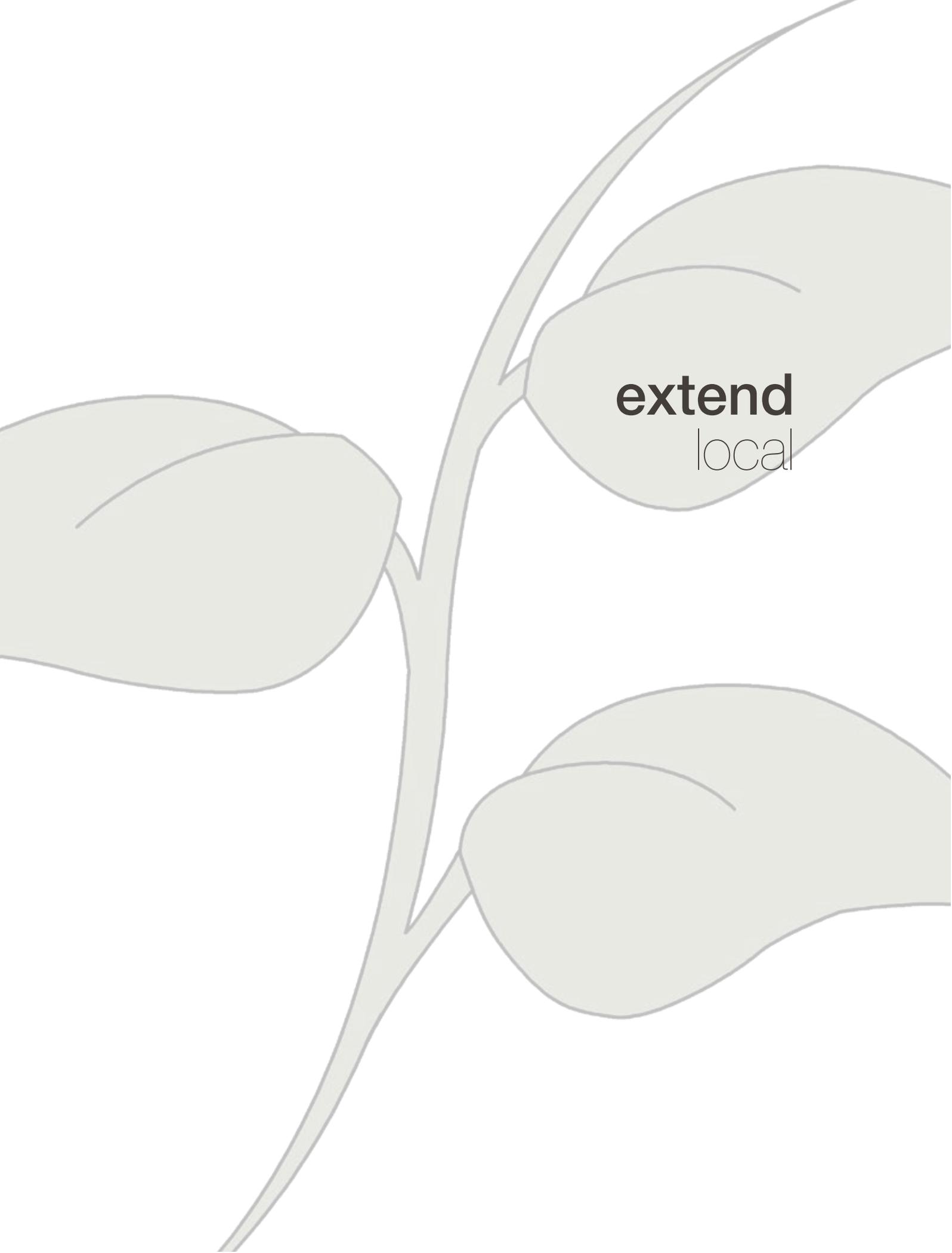


Friends on Volcano Island: teaching English, building relationships, and sharing the Good News on Volcano Island
champions: Michael and Rachel Mitchell

Micah Baker: chaplain in the United States Air Force
champion: Trish and David Nicastro



The Open Door Food Pantry: serving Gloucester and the North Shore
champion: Rachel Orié



extend

local



the open door

Rachel Orié, a member of Community Church and staff at The Open Door Food Pantry, helps to organize volunteers from Community Church for the six times a year that the church has the opportunity to provide and serve the community dinner at the food pantry. Volunteers have the chance to meet people from the community while serving those in need with love, grace and good food. Rachel noted a few highlights from the year:

- I was told by one of the diners before the meal began that our meal is her favorite of all the meals that get served! That's pretty cool... :)
- Seeing parents serve alongside their children...gets me every time!
- Abi Ward got to practice peeling cucumbers and carrots and spinning lettuce
- The Castelluccio boys (and Katie!) and Abi Ward delivered plates of food to all the diners - who could resist such service?
- Tim and Jayme washing & putting away dishes and not causing any trouble...
- Cora scooping Mixed Berry Crumble (very accurately!)
- Gavin's excitement over making whipped cream (gets me every time!) and his super sweet idea to make a "welcome to The Open Door" smiley face salad plate for our first diner! How cute is that?





vacation bible school

“

On Monday when Life changes God is good--I had a moment with a child that my family has gotten to know really well. He is moving away and his entire life is about to change tremendously. He pulled me aside to tell me he was moving and my response filled with the Holy Spirit was "when life changes God is good" this boy was only there on Monday for that specific message from God. I pray he remembers and heard God's specific message to him that day.

-Sandy Jones

”

Community Church VBS went on a Cross Cultural voyage to Expedition Norway in 2018. We learned that God loves the world and in all of life's situations.... God is good! Our theme verse for the week was: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!" 1 Chronicles 16:34.

Day 1: When life changes...God is good!

Day 2: When life is helpless...God is good!

Day 3: When life is scary...God is good!

Day 4: When life is sad... God is good!

Day 5: When life is good...God is good!

Each day children joined us for Bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks, music and skits. VBS ran each morning from July 9-13 from 9am-12pm with a special VBS Sunday themed worship service and BBQ on Sunday. This event required nearly 50 volunteers and accepted donations for supplies from about a dozen others. We had many behind the scene helpers as well as help with props, back drops, shopping for supplies, hanging signs, and setting up tents. The church was transformed into Expedition Norway overnight and we welcomed nearly 100 children from nursery to 5th grade in order to share God's love with them and their families.

Tricia Joles



“

One day during prayer circle time I had to break my character because I was in tears as we went around saying God loves _insert your name_ as some kids were hesitating to say their names and many were not hesitant at all to say their name. Please pray these children feel God's love in their lives--they need His love the most.

-Sandy Jones

”

The Treasure of God's Word

Brayden was excited about hunting for treasure all week, then on the last day of VBS, he followed a treasure map that led him to his very own Bible so he could know the greatest treasure of all!





“Trey was so sad as he crawled into my bed late on Tuesday saying he was really missing his big brother (gone until August). After a few minutes I heard him whisper through his tears “when life is sad...” then two little thumbs lifted up out of the blanket “God is good”. Of course, that’s when my tears started!! Thank you for all the effort, energy and love that was put into shaping our children to KNOW and speak truth. God IS good.

-Joanna Bushfield

”





“ I just wanted to say that I was incredibly impressed by the effort and organization and general amazingness that I witnessed while helping out the couple of days I was able to participate in VBS this year. You all did such an incredible job planning, decorating, and producing a week-long experience that the children will never forget! From the food to the arts and crafts, the t-shirts, music, storytelling, etc... I could tell how much work and love was put into it all. Do not doubt that relationships were made and lives changed in our community. I even witnessed the teens at Youth Center on Friday night singing the songs from the services while playing around at Niles Beach. I have heard positive feedback from members of the community who do not attend CCEG too. Thank you so much for all of your efforts! It was a blessing to witness.

-Ashley Gullett

”

“ Praise God for all the little hearts touched this week! Amazing to see God moving in their precious lives. Just beautiful.

-Amy Smith

”





“ I have a college friend going through some tough times right now. We usually touch base with each other every 6 months or so. Over the last couple weeks, we have been talking or texting every day. We have been supporting each through faith, in our phone conversation and praying for strength for him to get through his tough times. I shared with him what we were doing with the kids during VBS. I told him that when things seem hopeless God is good. I told him that I felt God was working in his life even if he didn't see it. God brought us closer together over the last couple of weeks, which was just a small way that we could grow stronger and move forward in His love. VBS, it's not just for kids!

-Craig Herrmann”



“ One more sweet testimony: this morning, a girl I nannied for this summer asked her mom to play the VBS music on the way to school today. Mom obliged and then posted about her daughter's request and said how much she had needed to hear the lyrics herself, and posted the lyrics. How awesome is God that He uses this crazy thing called VBS to call people to Himself and that we get to be part of it?!?!

-Melanie Ward”



Growing up in VBS

24 years ago, Brieana attended Community Church's VBS, and this year served as a volunteer



coastal cleanup



62
people

18
full bags

420+
lbs of trash

2.4
mi. of coast cleaned
on eight beaches



Our third annual Coastal Cleanup event at Community Church was held on Saturday, September 15th, 2018. Our church joined with the city of Gloucester, the Department of Public Works, Coastsweep (an international initiative), and other Christ-centered churches on Cape Ann to accomplish Coastal Cleanup 2018. We believe that being disciples of Jesus means we care for our neighbors, our city, and God’s creation as a whole.

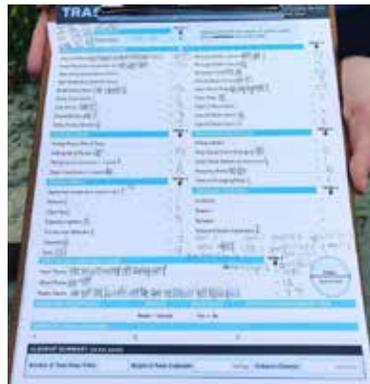
We all know that one of the great blessings we have in Gloucester is the incredible coastline and a number of amazing beaches. Because of our gratefulness for this incredible blessing, one clear and tangible way to “give back”—and even to share the gospel through an act of kindness and love—is to commit to learning about creation care and taking at least a day to clean up our beaches. On September 15th 2018, we gathered by the bell of the church, and we sent teams out to Niles Beach, Brace’s Cove, Cripple Cove, Plum Cove Beach, Half Moon Beach, Cressy’s Beach, Wingaersheek Beach, and Good Harbor. We had 62 people join us to collect 18 full contractor grade bags of trash, totaling over 420 lbs of debris, and we worked to help clean 2.4 miles of coastline! The data



we collected was sent to Ocean Conservancy, a global non-profit doing research on marine debris. This event is a tangible part of making Gloucester a safer, cleaner, and more beautiful place to live, all in the name of Jesus as we try to live out our faith in visible, accessible ways. We look forward to continuing this annual event in the hopes that it transforms our body of believers, but also serves as a door to bring the light of Jesus to our city.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, who led a site team, and who helped to make Gloucester more beautiful as we continue to live out our faith and seek the peace of the city.

Jake Brooks





harvest party



Loudlight Band

Tim, Mike and Matt rockin' out with some live music for the Harvest Party

Our Annual Harvest Party returned again this year on October 28th, despite the weekend's dreary forecast – we even had a brief moment of sunshine! The planning team this year included Emily Glover, Leah Brooks, Jake Brooks, Matt Nilan, Katie Madden, Janelle Wolters, Rachel Orie, Russ Webber, Rachel and Steve Zachignia, and Ashley Gullett. In addition to this awesome core team, we had 45 other volunteers making chilis, baking desserts, doing set-up and tear-down, collecting hay bales, running games, helping with crafts, and being greeters/hosts. It truly takes the whole church to pull together this annual event. The vision the team focused on for this event was making the event fun for all ages, welcoming to people both from within our church and out in our neighborhood, and being intentionally relational, with the desire that the event could serve as a non-threatening entry point to a person's first experience at church. As one of our Local Outreach events in the Fall, the hope was to have an event that would allow our neighbors to find an access point into the life of our church.

Inviting the neighbors

Ella and Jake bringing invitations to the neighbors



This year's new development was a Toddler Zone with ride-on toys and even a story time where Suz Skinner read Leaf Man for all the kids. There were also many new faces in attendance at the Harvest Party and the team's vision was carried out – people were greeted warmly, there were lots of compliments about the food and the look of the space, and everyone had fun playing games and hanging out! It is such a blessing to see the labor and work of so many resulting in an opportunity that truly welcomes our city into an accessible space to perhaps meet Jesus!

Jake Brooks



Dirt and Glitter
The things Harvest Parties are made of



“ At the harvest party we always end up with plenty of youth helpers for the arcade games. This year, we were short some at the beginning as some of the incoming students were not sure they wanted to serve because they would miss out on the fun. I got the group together and had some older students share about their experiences (which were not all fun lol) and then explained that we have been given the opportunity to serve God and the younger children by helping THEM have fun. As we were still gathered, still no one volunteered. But as the party started, a few students came up to me individually and asked where they could help. It was amazing to see that as they saw their peers serving, they changed their minds and saw value in it.

-Janelle Wolters





watoto children's choir



Pre-concert Dinner

Enjoying a meal together with the Watoto choir children and volunteers before the concert

For the third time in the last four years, our church was deeply grateful for the tireless work of Tricia Nicastro and others who helped us to host the Watoto Children's Choir for their amazing concert on October 17th. The choir shared with us their stories of hope and rescue by the work of Jesus Christ and shared the gospel with so many visitors and friends who joined us for the evening. However, for many families, the true highlight of Watoto is not the concert itself, but the fact that we get to host them, share our homes and our lives with them.



Welcome, Watoto!

Our upstairs Sunday School classrooms transformed into a study space for the Watoto children during their stay in Gloucester

This year we were tremendously blessed to be able to host Watoto for two nights, as one of their concerts was rescheduled. This was most certainly our gain as the kids got to bless us with their smiles, joy, and love for twice the usual amount of time! We feel like they give us way more than we can give back – but we were very excited by the tremendous generosity of our church body and the visitors who helped raise a significant love offering for their ministry. We look forward to continuing to grow in our relationship with Watoto, especially as the Bushfield family heads to Uganda to be with them during a portion of the sabbatical in the spring of 2019.

Setting the tables

Some of our youngest volunteers working hard to prepare pretty flowers for the dinner table





action backpacks

In December we once again supported the 'Action Backpack' initiative alongside of Lanesville Congregational Church and other Christ-centered churches on Cape Ann. The goods collected were placed in 50 backpacks that were donated to the Action Shelter in Gloucester which cares for so many in our city! We are so thankful to partner with the larger body of believers in the effort to do good in our city in the name of Jesus.



Christmas Backpack Care Packages

ACTION INC.



lobster trap tree lighting



The Lobster Trap Christmas Tree

The tree all lit up with new colored lights this year to show off all the hand-painted buoys

Once again this year, the Community Church Worship Team was invited to lead the city of Gloucester in some traditional Christmas Carols and holiday songs at the annual Lobster Trap Tree Lighting. The team spent the day setting up all the sound equipment, sound checking and rehearsing, and then playing their fingers off in the chilly temperatures, but were grateful for the dry weather this year! We love getting to serve in such a concrete and visible way where our church can show that we love our city, and that we're committed to making our city a great place to live!

Special thanks to Peter Crossman, Dean Sidell and Craig Herrmann, for their work setting up the sound system and taking care of the details; and to the band (Pastor Tim, Katie Castelluccio, Mike Orié, and Matt Nilan); and the many others who helped make this whole event happen.

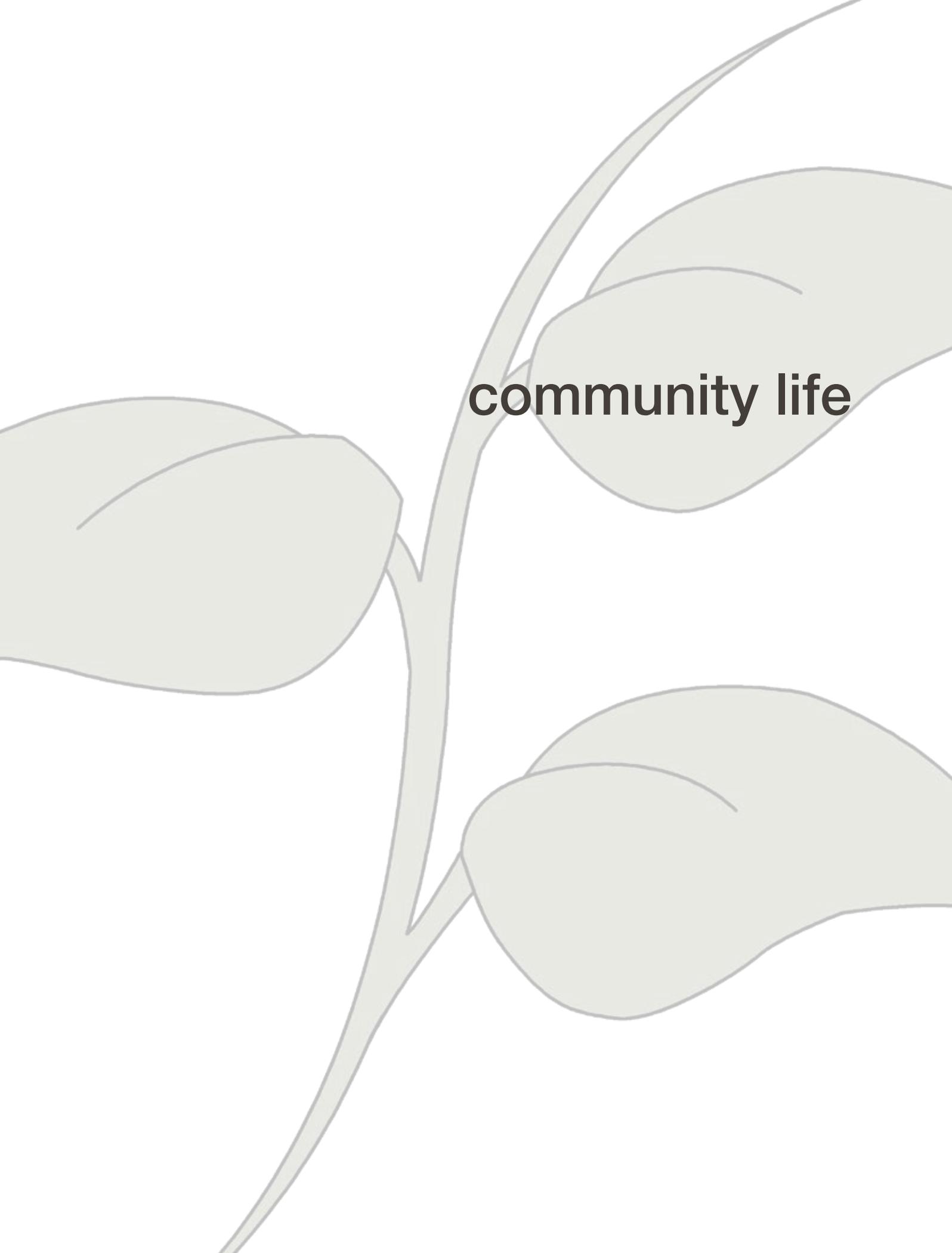
“

As we're singing, I love looking around, scanning the crowd and seeing how many people are there packing the streets, singing their hearts out, and watching the kids dancing! It's really fun to be able to provide that experience for the community.

I had a former co-worker approach me recently and tell me that she went to the Lobster Trap Tree Lighting for the first time, and asked if that was my church (I said yes), and she said it was a really wonderful event and she really enjoyed it.

-Rachel Orié

”



community life



Amelia Brooks
to Jake and Leah Brooks



Amelia

Noah Gillespie
to Tom and Rachel Gillespie



Noah

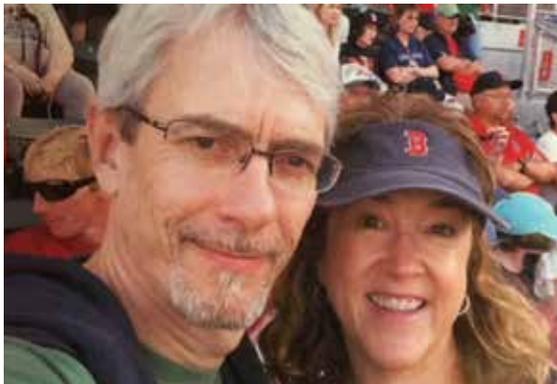
Graham Zacchigna
to Steve and Rachel Zacchigna



Graham



deaths



Laura and Christophe Couallier

Laura Herrmann Couallier, 52, tragically passed with her husband, Christophe Couallier on December 19 2017. Laura, a talented artist and graphic designer, grew up in Gloucester among aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. She pursued and celebrated life and all its beauty through art, tennis, sailing, and travel, yet Laura always found the deepest and purest joy when in the presence of those she loved. The funeral service took place on January 1, 2018 at Community Church of East Gloucester and was a true celebration of their lives. Family from France and friends from Florida joined the family and loved ones here in Gloucester (including her brother – Craig along with Kerry, Jane, and Ruby Herrmann) to honor and remember this couple.



Robert Arnold

photo published by www.greelyfuneralhome.com

Capt. Robert E. Arnold, 95, of Gloucester, husband of the late Lois A. (Boutchie) Arnold, passed away on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 surrounded by his loving family at Care One at Essex Park in Beverly. He was born, raised, and lived nearly all his life in East Gloucester. Robert attended Gloucester Schools but left school early to join the United States Navy, where he proudly served during WWII and Korea. Following WWII, he started his fishing career aboard the family F/V “Phyllis A” and captained his lobster boat the F/V “Ann & Scott”. Robert had attended Community Church at one time and had always considered it his ‘church home’. Pastor Jake Brooks officiated the graveside service at Mount Pleasant Cemetery on December 17th. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.



marriages



Janelle Brink and Nathan Wolters
January 27, 2018
Gloucester, MA



Bricana Saunders and Mike Mann
October 21, 2018
Gloucester, MA



baptisms



On September 23rd we had the chance to celebrate God's grace as we baptized three people from our church down at Half-Moon Beach at Stage Fort Park. Adam Jerome, Novalee Jones, and Wendy Antrim each made this public profession of faith in the cold, cold waters of the Atlantic, with our church gathered around as witnesses. Praise God for His continued faithfulness in calling people into relationship with Himself through His son, Jesus Christ!



Adam Jerome
Matt baptizing Adam



Wendy Antrim
Tim and Katie baptizing Wendy



Novalee Jones
Tim and Matt baptizing Novalee



Prayer on the beach

The church surrounding the newly baptized believers in prayer

“*I had at that point already decided to change my life by following God and made that declaration to God in prayer, but I wanted to do more, and being baptized like Jesus was a symbol of that declaration. People think that when you give your life over to God that you are somehow relinquishing control and that’s not true; actually I think you gain control. I’ve learned that God’s timing is usually better than ours, He knows what’s ahead and we don’t. In the last year God has changed me, but how can I describe it? It’s like, I didn’t see it coming! I have strength I never had before, I have peace and contentment and a happiness I can’t quite describe. I don’t carry around anger anymore, it just seems to have ebbed away without my even noticing. That’s how it happens sometimes, God is changing things but in such an imperceptible way you don’t notice it’s happening until all of a sudden you realize something is different, it’s gone, where did all that anger go? I don’t know, but it’s gone. I didn’t specifically ask God to take it away, but I’m sure glad He did. And while last year was all about letting God heal my soul, this year is about taking the strength He’s given me and using it to bless others in any way I can.*

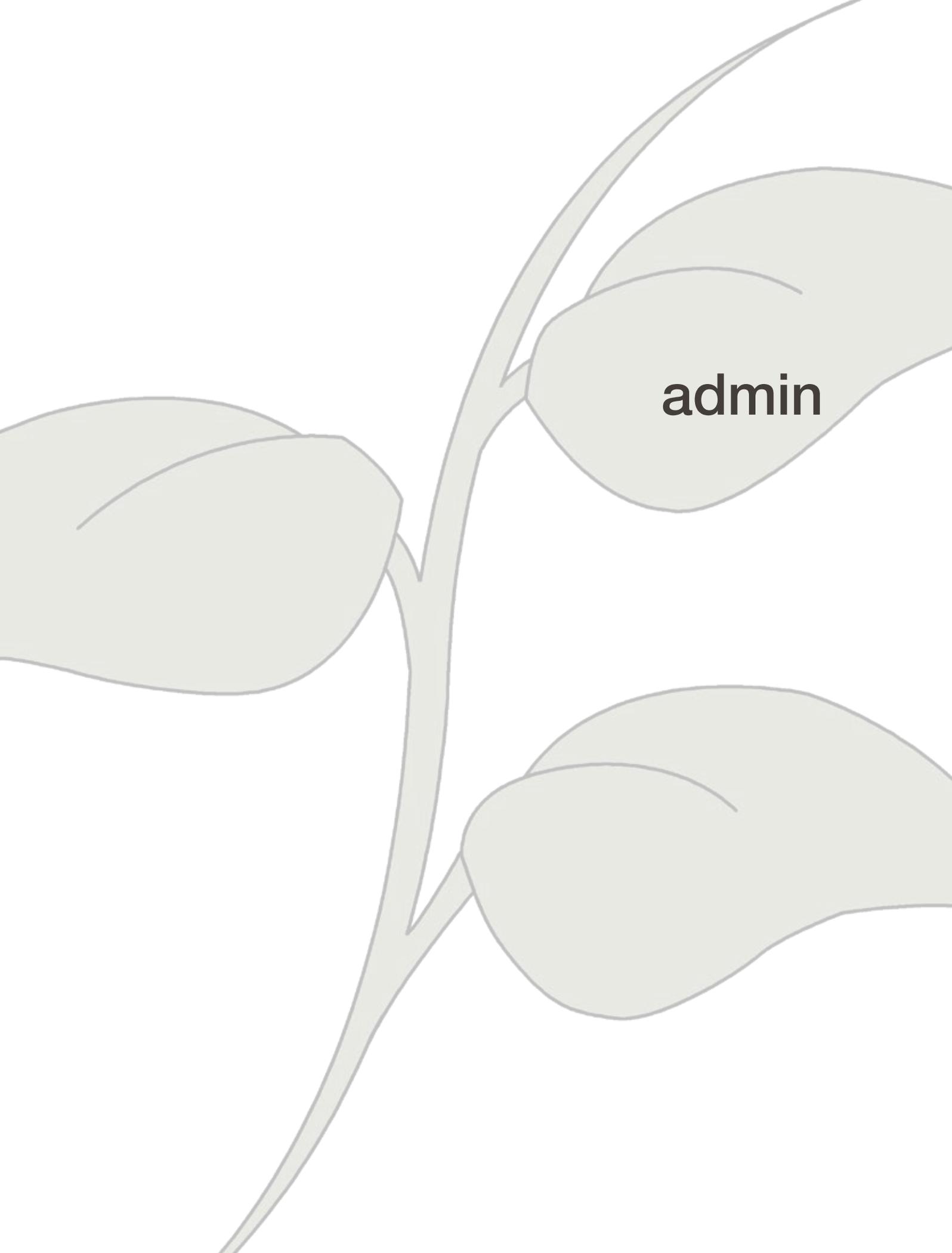
–Wendy Antrim”



2018 membership

Cynthia Adams	Terry Jess Joles	Roxanne Nilsson
George Adams	Tricia Joles	Kyle Olson
Jaymes Allen*	Sandy Jones	Michael Orié
Karen Andrew*	Albert Jones	Rachel Orié
Anthony Andrew*	Michael Josephson	Marianne Peterson
Wendy Antrim*	Roberta Josephson	Melanie Poole
Nancy Arnold	Susan Kelly	Jessica Roberts
Daniel Barbre	J. Tae-Jin Kim	Kim Sawyer
Carleen Borge	Ingrid Kinnunen	Daren Sawyer
John Borge	Rusty Kinnunen	Jacquelina Schindler
Jacqueline Broberg	Paul Leavitt	Andy Shaw
David Broberg*	Deanne Leavitt	Jenna Shaw
Jacob Brooks	Nichole Lehr	Dean Sidell
Leah Brooks	Stuart Lehr	Pam Sidell
Joanna Bushfield	Chris Love	Drew Sidell
Tim Bushfield	Jocelyn Love	Joel Skinner
Betty Cannon	Katie Madden	Susie Skinner
Robert Cannon	Sara Martin	Aaron Smith
Emily Caren	Amanda Matczynski	Stephanie Smith
John Castelluccio	Elizabeth Maurer	Amy Smith
Katie Castelluccio	Debby Milne	Erik Smith
Laura Figurido	Skip Milne	Abby Stroven
Ashley Gullett	Michael Mitchell	Cory Ward
Craig Herrmann	Rachel Mitchell	Melanie Ward
Donna Hilton	Brian Moore	Russ Webber
Ron Hilton	Joanna Moore	Janelle Wolters
Dan Hughes	Joan Moynihan	Nathan Wolters
Heather Hughes	Matt Nilan*	Bill Woodson
Audrey Johnson	Ron Nilsson	Sally Woodson

*indicates new members in 2018



admin



2018 admin report

This year has been filled with challenges and blessings. We have had a difficult budget year as we have made adjustments to the ebb and flow of family moves for new jobs and new callings. God has both guided and provided through these challenges and blessed us in so many ways.

God provided a number of special gifts to help cover our shortfall, He provided the Lilly Grant for the Bushfield Sabbatical, and He has continued to bring a team of people to Community Church who are dedicated to providing all that is needed behind the scenes to support ministry across the church.

Bill Woodson continued his faithful service as our book keeper, Marianne Peterson managed the insurance and employee benefits—despite being in Florida for half the year, Amanda Matczynski served as our new collector, and Russ Webber chaired the FIT (Facilities Improvement Team), working countless hours keeping our buildings in good shape. A special thank you to our sextons, Carleen and John Borge, who clean the church weekly and clear the snow to make access to our building safe.

-Under Russ's direction there were two church wide work days, the Youth Center completed a number of projects as a way to earn scholarships to Snow Camp, and the Men's Ministry Team partnered with FIT to provide breakfast before the fall work day. In addition, the following was completed during 2018:

- Replaced the furnace in the third floor parsonage apartment.
- Replaced the double doors at the side entrance to the church.
- Replaced 4 of the 7 sump pumps in the church basement French

Drain system.

- Replaced the picket fence around the parsonage yard.
- Replaced the church's lawn mower.
- Replaced the dehumidifier in the church's fellowship hall.
- Upgraded some parsonage light fixtures to LED fixtures.
- Upgraded some church light fixtures to be LED fixtures.



admin report continued...

- Replaced both church vacuum cleaners
- Performed inspections on the church fire extinguishers and kitchen Ansul system
- Performed annual inspection of the church's Fire Alarm system
- In conjunction with the Leadership Team, we also began to initiate some safety and security protocols using the ALICE certification training. Russ Webber and I are both certified instructors and will be providing training for various groups in the church during 2019.

God's blessing continues to faithfully outweigh any and all challenges we face individually and collectively. At the time of this writing, we are celebrating ending the year with a \$270 surplus, and with the special giving we were not only able to cover the anticipated deficit for 2018, but we will be able to invest in all that God has in store for 2019 and beyond.

Thank you all for your faithful giving and support of the ministries of Community Church. All that you give and do is so appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dean Sidell



FIT Projects
New fence and solar panels installed this year







2018 year end and 2019 budget

Community Church of East Gloucester 2018 REPORT AND PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Draft Budget
Income			
Operations			
Regular Giving	260000	227425	245500
Regular Cash	20000	19226	20000
Misc. Income	600	280	600
Building Use	<u>1000</u>	<u>580</u>	<u>1000</u>
Total Operations	281600	247511	267100
Designated			
Elders Fund	2500	2500	5000
Designated Giving		1881	0
Watoto	1500	1085	0
Missions - Special	<u>3512</u>	<u>2282</u>	<u>2000</u>
Total Designated	7512	7748	7000
Other:			
RENT/Housing Value	12000	12000	12000
Housing Value for Parsonage	<u>18000</u>	<u>18000</u>	<u>18000</u>
Total Income	319112	285259	304100
EXPENSES:			
Compensation			
Total Compensation	220000	209149	211500
EXALT			
Worship Ministry	1000	1054	1000
Preaching Team	650	0	650
Guests Preachers	750	0	750
Connection Ministries			
Greeting Ministry	200	0	0
Welcome Packets	0	0	0
Fellowship Dinners/Breakfa:	400	723	700
Supplies	2000	2800	2800
Printing and Signage	200	200	200
EQUIP			
Small Groups			
Curriculum Materials	300	300	300
Womens Ministry	1000	672	700
Mens Ministry	150	475	500
Youth Ministry			
YC General Expenses	1000	1116	1200
YC Trips	2200	1140	1800
Childrens Ministry			
Nursery General Supplies	225	116	225
Nursery Equipment	75	23	75
Sunday School	1000	1458	1200
Pastors Discipleship Fund	1800	1333	1800
Pastors Resources	1800	1291	1800

2018
Net WM 3122-
2525 = \$597

2018
Net MM 2165 -
1690 = 475

2018
Net YC: 3497-
2357 = \$1140

EXTEND

Global Outreach

Go Partners Support	20000	15331	16000
Special Missions Funds	4836	3367	2000
Outreach Trips	0	0	0
Other:	600	600	600

2019 Outreach

10% = \$26,550

Actual = \$26,350

Local outreach

Special Events	250	250	250
Vacation Bible School	1875	1945	2000
Elders Fund Support	2500	2500	5000
Other:	500	500	500

2018 Outreach:

10% = \$24,666

Actual = \$24,493

Ministry Support

Telephones and Internet	4200	2604	2600
Website and Online Presence	1250	2550	2500
Church Technology and Networki	2000	2791	2500
Church Photocopier Expenses	2500	2569	2500
Office Supplies	1100	807	1000
Printing and Publication	200	200	200
Gifts of Appreciation	1000	1350	1000
Miscellaneous	500	435	500
Designated Giving		1686	0

Facility

Church Utilities - Gas	3000	3338	3400
Church Utilities - Electric	3500	3358	2400
Water and Sewer	2700	2740	2750
Repairs & Maintenance			
Church and Parsonage	11000	10774	10000
Maintenance Special Proj	1300	3891	1000
Cleaning Supplies	400	642	600
Snow Removal	1000	1309	1000
Trash Removal	900	914	900
Insurance	11500	10328	10500

Reserves

Building Reserve	5000	5000	5000
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318361 303629 303900

Surplus / Loss 751 -18370 200

Year End Giving 18640

Unaudited Year End 270



collector's report

Community Church of E. Gloucester

January - December 2018

	TOTAL
Income	
1-Operations	
4000 Regular Envelope & Check	227,425.49
4010 Regular Cash	19,226.07
4120 Year-End Giving	18,640.00
4910 Misc. Income	5.00
4851 Building Use	150.00
Total 4910 Misc. Income	155.00
Total 1-Operations	265,446.56
2-Pass Through	
4100 Missions - Envelope	125.00
4110 Mission Plate	155.00
4300 Youth Center	227.00
4320 Youth Center - Events and Trips	2,130.00
4600 General	425.00
4630 Mens Retreat	1,690.48
4635 Womens Ministry	2,525.00
4800 Sabbatical Funds	20,434.49
Total 2-Pass Through	27,711.97
3-Designated	
4180 Missions - Special	3,366.64
4600 Designated Gifts	1,861.44
4710 Health Insurance	6,729.06
Total 3-Designated	11,957.14
Total Income	\$305,115.67
GROSS PROFIT	\$305,115.67
Expenses	
Total Expenses	
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$305,115.67
NET INCOME	\$305,115.67



balance sheet

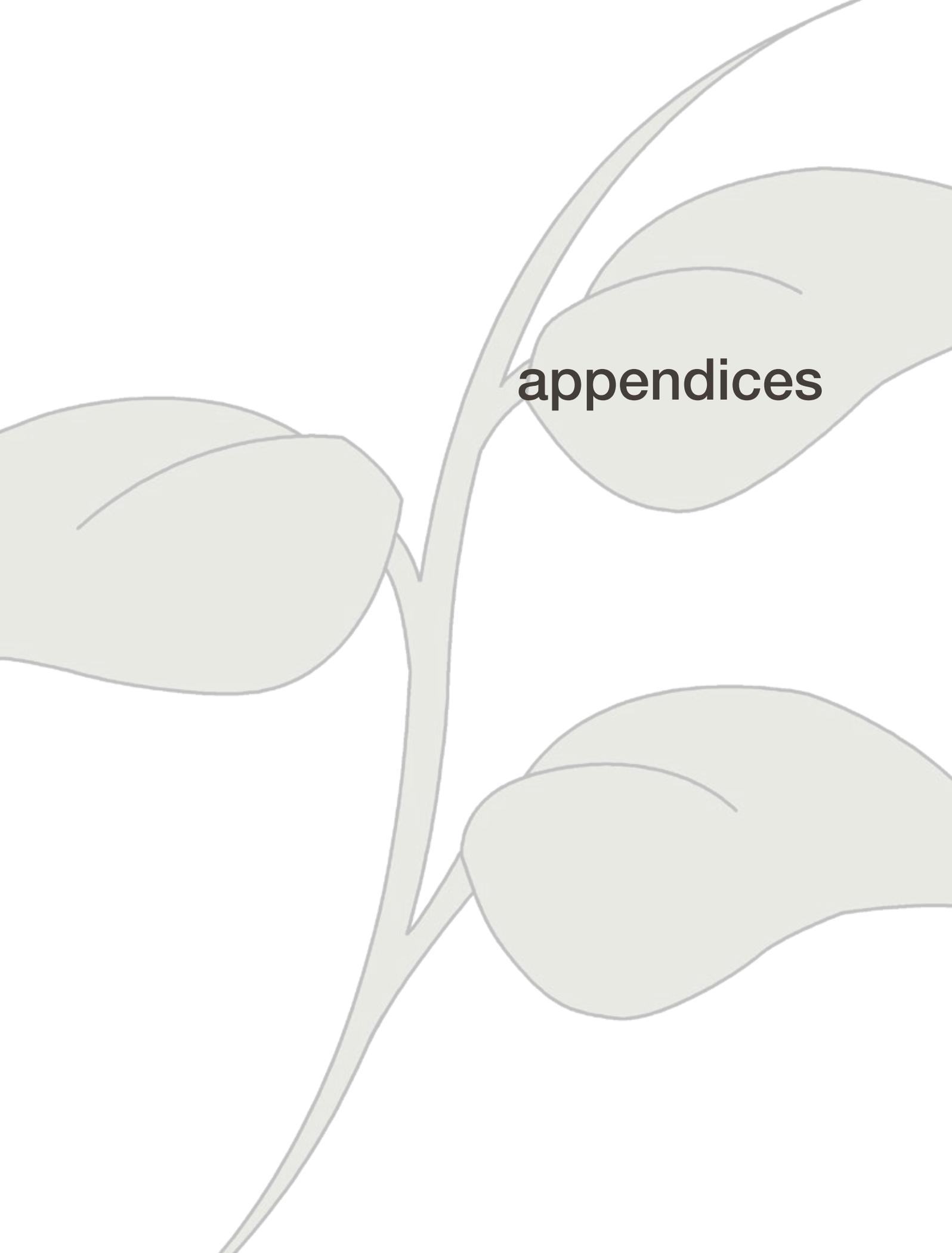
Community Church of E. Gloucester Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2018

	Total	
	As of Dec 31, 2018	As of Dec 31, 2017 (PY)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1020 Santander Bank Money Market	9,882.15	9,882.15
1050 Santander Bank Checking	283,129.48	194,339.50
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 293,011.63	\$ 204,221.65
Other Current Assets		
1203 Prepaid Expenses	3,000.00	0.00
1400* Restricted Funds - Assets	-48,499.07	0.00
1700 Principal Note Receivable	0.00	0.00
1710 Note Receivable - Member	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	-\$ 45,499.07	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 247,512.56	\$ 204,221.65
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 247,512.56	\$ 204,221.65
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
1800 Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Other Current Liabilities		
1500 Restricted Funds - Current	0.00	500.00
1550 Building Fund / Basement	5,418.92	8,897.92
1600 Building Contingency Fund	42,938.46	37,438.46
1610 Technology Reserve	2,421.00	921.00
1620 Church Growth	78,835.00	38,835.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 129,613.38	\$ 86,592.38
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 129,613.38	\$ 86,592.38
Long-Term Liabilities		
1305 Betty Wentworth	19,260.00	19,260.00
1315 Susan B. Mailman	12,500.00	12,500.00
1320 Sarah Curtis	10,559.00	10,559.00
1325 Gleaners	2,000.00	2,000.00
1330 William Goldwaithe	1,000.00	1,000.00
1335 Memorial Fund Gifts	125.00	125.00
1340 Parson-Lane Principal	527.00	527.00
Total 1300 Restricted Funds - Long Term	\$ 45,971.00	\$ 45,971.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 45,971.00	\$ 45,971.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 175,584.38	\$ 132,563.38
Equity		
1200 Interest	0.00	2,282.95
3900 Retained Earnings	71,658.27	72,933.90
Net Income	269.91	-3,558.58
Total Equity	\$ 71,928.18	\$ 71,658.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 247,512.56	\$ 204,221.65

NOTE: Increase in cash assets is based on special gift we received last spring and the sabbatical grant that has yet to be expended as of year end.

NOTE: Decrease in Basement fund is based on purchase of new sump pumps and a new dehumidifier.

NOTE: The special gift was placed in the Church Growth Fund combined with the "What is God doing next?" giving.

A stylized graphic of a plant branch with three leaves. The leaves are light green with a darker green outline and a central vein. The word "appendices" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the rightmost leaf.

appendices



mission & vision

OUR UNCHANGING MISSION

We understand that the mission of the church — every church — comes from God as he has revealed it in His Word. Accordingly, the mission of our church is aligned directly to this unchanging and universal call to churches everywhere.

The Church exists to EXALT God, to EQUIP His Church, and to EXTEND His grace into the world.

These “three E’s” define us and guide us as we invest our time, energy and resources into life together as a church. Our mission will never change, because it is a statement of purpose that has been revealed in Scripture. Even as we discuss vision below, it is important to see that who we are, and our overall purpose as a church is not changing at all.

OUR CURRENT VISION

“Making disciples for the glory of Christ and the good of the city.”

We believe that we are being called beyond our own experience of Christian community as a church into a season of life together where we recognize that we are a part of the larger city of Gloucester and the many other cities represented as we worship together on Sunday mornings — cities into which God has intentionally placed us. We are being called outward into the city to love and serve our neighbors in tangible and concrete ways because that’s how God loves us all. We work *for the good of the city*.

Yet, even as we head outward into the city, we will not settle for mere voluntarism or activism; we are focused on the glory of Jesus, and understand our calling to share the good news about Jesus in clear, relevant and meaningful ways. We want to celebrate Jesus and bring Him glory. So we work *for the glory of Christ*.

Bringing these two ideas together, we also recognize that the highest good for our cities is for our neighbors, coworkers, family members and friends to have the opportunity to meet Jesus and to respond to His saving grace, which brings Him great glory. In this way, we work for the glory of Christ *and* the good of the city.

To accomplish all of this, as a church we need to be making disciples — people who are following Jesus with their whole lives as we participate in our neighborhoods, as we serve in our cities, and as we love and serve those around us. So we invest in equipping the church for worship, for growth, and for sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways by *making disciples* and learning together how to follow Jesus more and more in all areas of our lives.



distinctives

DISTINCTIVES:

Though our mission, we are united with Christians around the world and throughout history, aligned with the biblical purposes God has established for His Church. We also recognize that we are distinct due to our local church culture and leadership style, which emphasize grace, participation, collaboration, equipping, and sending. These distinctives shape our ministry philosophy and the begin to articulate the kind of community we are aspiring to become.

Grace. We believe grace should govern all relationships. Therefore, we extend grace to one another for the sake of unity, growth, and witness; and we extend grace to unbelievers with the hope that they may experience redeeming grace.

Equipping. We believe it is the duty of the church to make disciples by training Christians for life and ministry. Therefore, we desire to help every believer to identify their gifts, to develop their abilities, and to equip them for effectiveness in ministry. We also encourage members of our church to be actively involved in discipling one another, as we recognize every Christian's role in an equipping lifestyle.

Participation. We believe that every Christian is called to ministry and uniquely gifted to build up the church and engage the world. Therefore, we invite every believer to cultivate a lifestyle of ministry and provide opportunities for participation in ministry. We also encourage members of our church to be actively participating in the larger community in meaningful and service-oriented ways as good citizens and as those who care deeply about the cities in which we live.

Collaboration. We believe that ministry and church leadership should be a group effort. Therefore, we embrace collaboration at every level of ministry and leadership to ensure that multiple perspectives are creatively brought to bear on our ideas, decisions, and ministries.

Sending. We believe that all Christians are sent into the world to serve the spiritual and practical needs of their neighbors for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, we strive to communicate the gospel in relevant ways to people in our community, and we partner with those who are active in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

doctrinal statement

As a church we accept these areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all biblical Christians. However, because of our conviction that we are part of a larger body of believers, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is accurately based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue that hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God, and that it is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks. (2 Tim. 3:15,16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 5:17-30)

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His complete and perfect humanity.

We believe in the virgin birth, in His sinless life and His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal, future return to Earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. (Isaiah 7:14; Acts 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Acts 1:9-11)

We believe that man and woman were created good and upright in the image of God, but that they voluntarily sinned by disobeying God and thereby were alienated from God, and incurred both physical and spiritual death. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. Because of the fall, each person's nature is corrupted, and they are thus totally unable to please God. (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 5:12-19)

We believe that regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to salvation, and His indwelling presence necessary for the living of a Godly Christian life; and that it is only by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ that people can be saved. The salvation of all who believe is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. (Luke 24:37; Rom. 3:16; 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)

We believe in the Holy Spirit as a person, separate and distinct from and co-equal in the triune Godhead with the Father and the Son. He is sent to dwell within the heart of each child of God, to comfort and to lead into all truth. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 2:4; 10:44-46; 5:8,9)

We believe in the victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to judgment and condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life. (Matt. 25:26; Mark 9:34-38; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all people, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement. (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23)

We believe that Christians are to be baptized as believers and to partake in the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. (However, since our church believes that persons of other Christian denominations are part of one body of believers; we recognize and accept baptisms by other Bible believing churches.) (Matt. 29:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:20-29)



communitychurch
of east gloucester

grace

equipping

participation

collaboration

sending

application for membership

NAME: _____
(please print)

As a believer in Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord of my life, and having been baptized, I would like to become a member of Community Church of East Gloucester. I have read and understood the church's doctrinal statement, its statement of mission and vision, and its distinctives, and I choose to partner with the Community Church according to these documents as they represent the direction and efforts of this church.

I am a regular attender of Community Church and I commit to contributing my time and energy to the church by using the gifts and abilities the Lord has given me to support the ministry and work of the body. I commit to a lifestyle of extravagant generosity which includes giving to the church as a declaration of God's rule over all areas of my life and as an expression of thankful worship for the Lord's provision.

I willingly submit myself to the leadership of the church in matters of Christian faith and practice, asking the church as a community to keep me accountable to the faith I profess. I commit myself to growing in my relationship with Jesus Christ toward Christian maturity for the glory of God. Should my lifestyle cease to be consistent with a growing, maturing faith, I ask the church to intervene with love and grace in matters of church discipline.

I recognize that I have the opportunity to meet with an elder to discuss any questions or concerns about the church before signing and submitting this application, and that I have taken advantage of that opportunity if it was necessary.

signature: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

email: _____

Please do not include my contact information in the church directory.

Thank you so much for your interest in and commitment to our body at Community Church. Please give this signed application to one of the elders and we will review and act on it at one of our upcoming meetings. If you have any questions about the church or any of the statements on the following pages, please contact one of the elders. A full copy of the Church's by-laws is available upon request. To contact the elders, call the church or email them at <elders@eastgloucester.org>, or speak to one of them on a Sunday morning.



notes

