

FOCUS MEETING
Sunday, June 5
7pm, Chapel

FOCUS!

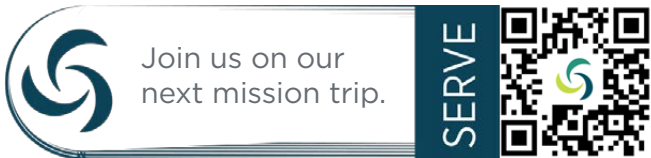
JANUARY-APRIL 2016

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Look for the blue and green flags within this issue of *Focus!* that indicate opportunities for you to give and serve. Scan the QR code with your phone to learn more.



Join us on our next mission trip.

SERVE



In my previous career, I worked for a software company. We hired a new company president and one of his first moves was for me to close our Houston office and relocate to our home office in Corpus Christi. That was a difficult four year season but one of amazing personal growth.

A memorable aspect of the move to Corpus Christi was the incredible change of socioeconomic status. As a single income family in Clear Lake we were on the lower end of the income scale but in Corpus Christi we were at the upper end. It was a healthy test of my attitude towards materialism.

Candace Griffith recently joined the UBC Foundation board and is also helping us launch the fund raising campaign for phase 3 of the kid's area renovation. Her note to the team this week reminded me of my Corpus Christi experience:

This devotional "Generosity" by Gordon MacDonald is so good and I will be sharing it with you occasionally.

MacDonald says, "The antidote to materialism is generosity."

Someone in the crowd said to Him (Jesus), "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:13-15

MacDonald then gives this story: the white elephant of wealth.

"In ancient days, when the King of Siam had an enemy he wanted to torment and destroy, he would send that enemy a very unique gift: a white elephant...a live, albino elephant. These animals were considered sacred in the culture of that day, so the recipient of the elephant had no choice but to intentionally care for the gift. This elephant would take an inordinate amount of the enemy's time, resources, energy, emotions, and finances. Over time, the enemy would destroy himself because of the extremely burdensome process of caring for the white elephant.

Could it be that Satan has made just such a gift to many of us in today's Christian churches? Most every believer in America is rich by the rest of the world's standards, so perhaps our prosperity has come by our acceptance of the "white elephant of wealth"... the self-focused "good life" that consumes most of our energy and has the potential to slowly destroy us."

As I'm praying for the generosity in the church and my own family, I'm praying for protection against the "white elephant of wealth." I'm praying for a spirit of generosity to grow in its place. We do not have to become slaves to the white elephant!

Our family has discovered that financial generosity brings contentment and thus freedom in many areas of our lives. God's economy is a strange model. But one we have come to trust.

As you read through the Focus Book you will find stories made possible not only by the obedient financial generosity of God's people, but also generosity of their time, talent and tenacity.

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Facilities Update

Mission Training Center Dedication

On Sunday, May 1, at 12:30 in the afternoon, rain did not dampen the spirits of the church and community members who attended the building for our newly constructed 8,000-square-foot Mission Training Center. This center will now serve as a base of operations for a variety of mission and ministry efforts staffed by UBC volunteers.

UBC has birthed dozens of ministries over the past forty years as we have encouraged one another to find places of service to express the love of Christ beyond the walls of the church building. Two of those ministries in particular have grown roots in the Bay Area and have stretched across many U.S. states.

UBC's Build Team, which erected its first church in 1982 in Durango, Mexico, has constructed over twenty-five churches on the Navajo Reservation, and locally, continues to work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

Coordinating with Texas Baptist Men, UBC's Disaster Relief Team responds to disasters all over the U.S., such as the Bastrop fires, the tornados in Tuscaloosa, Colorado floods/landslides, Georgetown floods and Hurricane Sandy in the New York area. Locally, the team provides support for those affected by natural disasters, assists with tree removal and also provides feeding support for projects such as Love Houston, often working directly with the Houston Mayor's office.



Kid's Area Renovation Campaign

To equip our children with important faith skills that will inspire them to see themselves serving others through God's holy work.

The results of the completed Kid's Ministries renovation project will support this mission.



Children's Ministries at UBC sets you up for a win. You learn the values of being a Christian through awesome programs like VBS, Sports Camp and all the other summer programs. It's a great way to be introduced into an active Christian lifestyle.

-Austin Ranna,

UBC member and former Children's Ministries student



OUR COMMITMENT

UBC Children's Ministries is renewing its identity and committing to an exciting change that will positively impact the future of our church and God's Kingdom.

THE ANTICIPATED EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Greater accommodation
- ▶ Improved ease of transition between worship services
- ▶ Increased functionality of space
- ▶ Enhanced safety

THE ITINERARY

As of April 2016:

Phase 1: Great Room renovations, including improved lighting and sound (complete)

Phase 2: Improved welcome area/restroom facilities (funded)

Phase 3: Improved classrooms, hallways, renovated kitchen and workroom

The entire renovation project is being funded entirely with cash payments.

Phase 2



Phase 1

Phase 3

THE DESTINATION

Help us provide our children at UBC with the skills and tools they need, and allow them to envision how they might serve in their community and around the world. Help inspire them to reach their full potential in Christ.

<i>Giving Goals (approximate)</i>	
475 families	\$400,000
5 - \$10,000	\$50,000
10 - \$5,000	\$50,000
10 - \$2,500	\$25,000
150 - \$1,000	\$150,000
200 - \$500	\$100,000
100 - \$250	\$25,000

Thank you for the generous contributions we have received to date. We look forward to additional contributions that will help us accomplish our goal.

If giving by check, please use the giving envelope and drop it in the offering plate. Monetary gifts can also be made online at www.ubc.org/kidsinflight or through the UBC Houston mobile app. All gifts should be in addition to your normal giving to the UBC budget. If giving by check or online, please write "Capital Improvements" in the memo line.

Be a Part of the
Change with
Your Gift Today!

GIVE

Missions & Serving Ministries

Articles by Aaron Glenn

PASTOR OF SERVING MINISTRIES

Many things happened in the serving life of UBC this past spring and most went unreported! We have so many servants who give and are never recognized for the things they do in the community on behalf of others. We highlighted a few of these under-the-radar ministries this past month in what we called the “Local Missions Fair.” In addition, we celebrated the ongoing work of our build team and disaster relief team through the dedication of the new Mission Training Center on the UBC property. This was a timely celebration because we were already engaged with local flood relief efforts at the time! We are glad to have come this far in the process of building the Mission Training Center and are hopeful and willing for God to use that center as a ministry tool.

We also started two new endeavors this semester. In January, we formally began hosting clients from the Mercy Tree (themericytree.org) on Thursdays for lunch in our chapel. This ministry to the homeless population around the Clear Lake area is truly a multi-denominational effort, comprising well over twenty different area churches. This is perhaps the most obvious and literal way that the serving ministries office has “created space” for others these past months.

Lastly, we have started a partnership with Buckner’s Family Hope Center in Penitas, Texas (buckner.org/rio-grande-valley). This budding partnership is very exciting because it is multi-layered, and it uses the talents and expertise of UBC volunteers in new ways through business models and training. Read more about this exciting initiative on our mission blog at ubc.org/mission-ministries.

The Wallet Left Behind

I was cleaning out a family’s house in Deweyville. The gentleman of the house shared his story of the stormy night.

“We knew the water was coming, but not this high. All day, we built sand bags around the house. At some point, we were told we must evacuate. In less than an hour, a natural levy broke. We grabbed a few things and left for Houston where we have friends to stay with. We were tired and had to stop to clean up and eat, when I noticed I had forgotten my wallet. With no license or money to pay for food, we pushed on to Houston. At this time, I was preparing myself to cancel my cards and get a new license. After the storm had passed, we headed back to our house. Once home, we found there was almost five feet of water inside. As I went through the house, I found my wallet high and dry on top of the bedroom dresser, untouched. Praise the Lord. Now, after a little while, we are getting things back together with the help of friends, community, Texas Baptist Men and God.”

When bad weather strikes, everyone immediately heads for shelter. When hard times come, the Psalmist encourages everyone to head toward God. The protection he offers is “tailor-made” to fit any kind of trouble. Is God your first option when trouble comes?

by Alan Wallace



Buckner Spring Break Serving Trip

Poverty alleviation is part of a holistic approach to service and missions in our broken world. If the church is in fact the Body of Christ, then we should be engaging this world in the way of Christ, who cared for the oppressed, the wounded and the marginalized, and pointing people to God's meta-narrative that is fundamentally about reconciliation.

The Buckner Family Hope Center in Penitas has proven to be exactly what we needed with regards to this type of holistic partnership. This past spring break, twenty-seven UBC members began what should become long-term involvement with people living in Penitas, who are involved with Buckner's Family Hope Center.

Our engagement with the community was strategic in that our UBC team responded to the stated needs of materially poor people in that community. They said they needed help with their micro-businesses, so we taught "Business 101" classes for local entrepreneurs and spent valuable time in individualized coaching sessions with many of them in the afternoons. Our volunteers gave marketing tips, helped with bookkeeping and financial matters, created business plans, and encouraged people in their quest to make the most of their opportunities to get ahead in life.

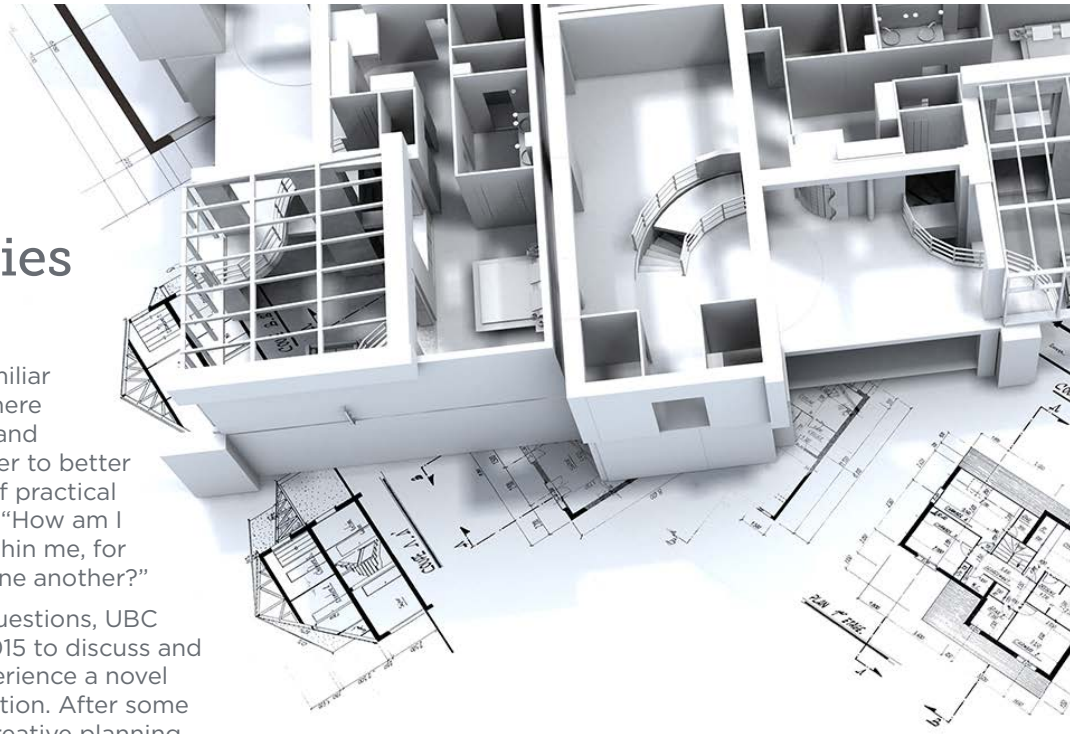
We also engaged in support activities such as canning classes for adults who wanted to learn how to preserve their fruits and vegetables, and we led a basketball camp for children in the community. These support efforts helped to raise the profile of Buckner in the Penitas community while also meeting practical needs for people. In addition to mere personal use, the canning knowledge could be useful to entrepreneurs who cook and sell food at the local "Pulga" (flea market).

The close planning with Buckner helped us know exactly how to prepare for the engagement with the local Penitas population. Buckner has several counselors, social workers and case managers on staff that have a strong pulse on the community and their needs, and we benefited from their expertise.

The plan is to continue finding ways to partner with Buckner in the Penitas community. We will follow up with more business classes this fall and will engage again next spring break. However, our desire is that this partnership be more than regularly scheduled "mission trips." The hope is for a more seamless, ongoing connection where we meet and respond to needs in that community, in ways that are more possible due to the relatively close proximity (377 miles or around six hours).

If we step into a given situation and take part in restoring the broken relationship, then we have the opportunity to really shake things up for God's Kingdom! Our contacts and networks are the social capital that people need to actually get out of poverty, and our larger community of faith (a.k.a. "the Church") is challenged by the interaction with others as we seek God's direction and will for us as a community. We celebrate what God has done this past semester between UBC and Buckner-Penitas, and we continue to work towards a stronger partnership for the sake of the people in Penitas and for ourselves to be changed more into God's likeness.





Care Ministries

Creating Space

Most of us are probably familiar with regular Bible study, where together, the Word is read and everyone converses together to better understand it. But in light of practical application, one might ask, “How am I creating space...for God within me, for those around me, and for one another?”

Helping to address these questions, UBC pastors convened in late 2015 to discuss and identify how we might experience a novel approach to spiritual formation. After some thoughtful reflection and creative planning, “Creating Space...for God within us” was born.

In early January 2016, UBCers were encouraged to join one of twenty-five Apprentice Groups that would meet at UBC or in homes throughout the week for ten weeks. Participants would use the first book in a series by James Bryan Smith, titled *The Good and Beautiful God*. Differing from regular Bible study, these groups would seek a more intimate, corporate level of sharing and growing, focusing on the question, “what is God saying to me?” The groups were facilitated by UBC pastors, as well as lay volunteers. By using a facilitator rather than a teacher, the approximate 300 adults who participated took part in more of an *experience* than a study.

The spiritual formation experience crossed over to other parts of UBC’s congregation as well. Curriculum was rewritten for approximately fifty high school kids in Student Ministries. With some of the facilitating coming from the high school students, Kyle Wilson, Associate Pastor of Student Ministries, considered the new experience “high value.” Additionally, the Women’s Ministries’ group Crossing Cultures used the book, and facilitator Tommy Lohse shared that it “worked well.”

The groups finished their last session on Palm Sunday; and beginning April 10, Faith@Home launched the “Creating Space for God in our Lives” campaign, challenging others to create space in life and home for worship and rest, meals and fellowship, prayer, the Word and serving with others over five weeks. Weekly resources and activities were made available at The Porch in the Fellowship Hall to help UBC households to create space for God and others in our busy lives.

The experience “way exceeded” expectations for Rick Carpenter, Pastor of Care Ministries, and he looks forward to using the other two books in the Apprentice series, *The Good and Beautiful Life* and *The Good and Beautiful Community* and utilizing additional home improvement themes in the future.

Nearly Wed/Newly Wed

There is a little known course that UBC offers, which serves as a place for growth and understanding prior to one of life’s biggest commitments—marriage.

UBC hosted its most recent Nearly Wed/Newly Wed course, which began January 31 and ran for six weeks. Twelve people (six couples) joined Pastor of Care Ministries Rick Carpenter on Sundays nights. For approximately an hour and twenty minutes per class, the course covered topics from the Fit to Be Tied curriculum:

- Our Differences
- What Love Is
- Communication
- Dealing with Conflict
- Money Issues
- Sexuality/Intimacy

For the past five years, the curriculum has been used at UBC and has been approved by Twogether In Texas, a state initiative that encourages premarital counseling. Not only is completion of this course a requirement for marriages at UBC, there is also an added perk for couples. A certification of completion means a \$60 discount for marriage licenses issued by the State of Texas.

Nearly Wed/Newly Wed runs three times a year (winter/spring, summer and winter) and is for couples who have been married under a year to those couples who are just thinking about marriage.

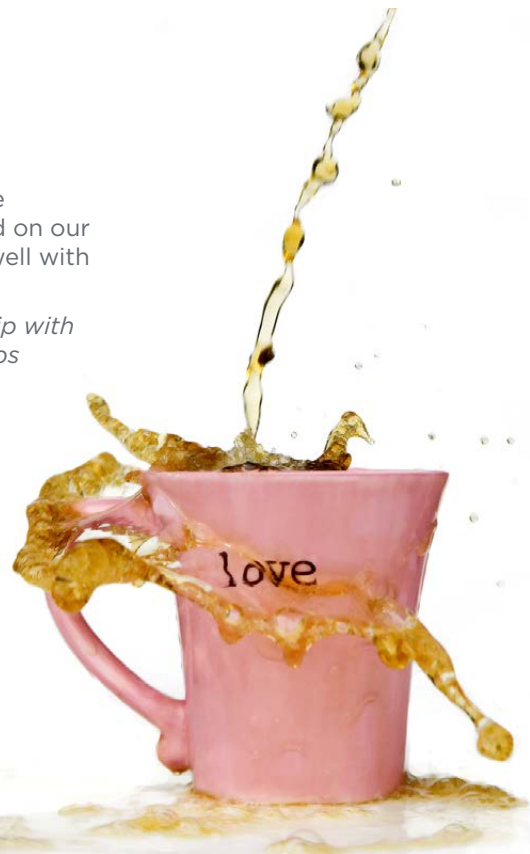
Women's Ministries

Annual Women's Retreat

This year's women's retreat took place at the Hilton Post Oak in the Houston Galleria area. "Overflow," a coffee-themed retreat, focused on our relationships with God, close relationships and how to share faith well with skeptics.

The sessions included: *Well Grounded: Building a strong relationship with God* (Angie Reeves), *One Sip at a Time: Building strong relationships with others* (Charlene Wolfe), and *Espresso Yourself: Helping a searching world believe* (Lora Doremus)

There were also beautiful testimonies shared by Antoinette Witwer and Katie King. Lori Vaughn shared her substantial skills as cruise director and game lord, and Jenny Verghese and Katie King led wonderful worship. Be sure and mark your calendar for next year's retreat, February 24-27 at Camp Allen in Navasota—where there will be horses!



Bay Area Working Women's Fellowship

Finding a good balance between home and work is crucial if you are a woman in the workplace. Many have requested help in this area, so the Bay Area Working Women's Fellowship was born.

Women from around the Bay Area meet together for lunch and encouragement as they share meals and common experiences. The goal is for Christian working women to have a regular place to network, share ideas and compare helpful tips and resources. It's also just to enjoy lunch with other believers—many of whom struggle with the same issues of work/life balance, experience the difficult task of representing Christ in the workplace, and wish to find time with God when time is limited.

During the April lunch, Angie Reeves shared helpful and personal tips on dealing with "Hurry Sickness" and others around the room shared helpful ideas as well.

If you would like to join this fun fellowship of working women, RSVP for the next lunch (first Thursday of every even numbered month) to sharoncochranmorris@gmail.com.



Girls' Nite Out

What do you get when you combine fun craft projects with moms from UBC's Weekday Ministries program plus any other women from UBC? You get a totally fun Girls' Nite Out!

At our last GNO, we made fabric "stained glass windows," ate snacks and enjoyed getting to know each other "sans kiddos." When our time was up, no one wanted to leave!

This event is a great way for UBC women to get to know our precious mommies from Weekday Ministries. Be sure and mark your calendar for the next GNO on September 22. The cost is \$10 and includes materials and snacks. Register online at ubc.org, or email Lora Doremus (Director of Women's Ministries) at lora.doremus@ubc.org for more details.





Big Dig

We all know we should study the Bible, but where do we begin? How can we make the most of the few minutes we set aside each day to connect with God through His Word?

To help, the UBC Women's Ministry leadership team recently hosted the Big Dig—three workshops held over three weeks, designed to equip attendees to dig deeper into their study of scripture.

Each week, we excavated truth from the book of James by learning to ask ourselves the right questions and by using online tools and resources to help us find answers. We also had time to talk with each other to discover different ideas and points of view.

Here are some things participants had to say about the Big Dig:

"I liked the personal and diverse method of study. I loved the way leadership was shared—it was very insightful!"

"I liked having all the tools explained and learning how to look up words and commentaries. It led to a deeper, richer understanding of the passage."

"The group discussions gave me different points of view from my own. It made me more receptive to other interpretations."

"At first it seemed overwhelming, but once I adjusted to my style and brain, it was easier to comprehend. It made me consider journaling!"

Participants learned to ask themselves questions to direct their study. Here were some of their favorites...

"'What does it say?' Because I love not knowing anything, starting with a clean slate, and then digging in to unveil the layers!"

"'What does it mean?' This is the area I had struggled with doing on my own at home, and now I have resources to help me."

"'What should I do?' It makes me accountable for my actions and helps me figure out what I truly need to do in my life."

"My favorite part was the question 'what does the passage teach me about God?' It helped me allow the Holy Spirit to reveal God to me in profound ways that highlight His commands, His promises, His plan and His purposes."

A second Big Dig will be held this summer- a Summer Dig! We will be making some adjustments, based on the excellent feedback we received from everyone, but the aim will be the same: to equip you to make the most of your time in God's word, and create space to fall in love with Him over and over again.

Young Adult Ministries

Chili, Dip, Dessert Showdown

On Sunday, February 3, our Young Adults group enjoyed watching the Super Bowl at their annual Chili, Dip, and Dessert Showdown. Willing participants submitted dishes in three categories (chili, dip and dessert) and a group of “experts” evaluated the entries.

This annual event is a time of fun and friendly competition—to watch the “big game,” play games and fellowship with each other. We had a great turn out for the event and wonderful entries all around.

The winners of this year’s showdown categories were: Andrea Miner (Chili), Sarah Kiser (Dip), Melanie Carr (Dessert and Grand Champion).

Student Ministries

Beach Retreat 2016

One weekend each spring, we have the opportunity to rent four beach houses at the Point West Resort in Galveston—one house for each high school grade level. This year, we packed seventy-six students, fourteen WBS leaders, and a ton of food and sodas into each houses *and let the horses free*.

The first focus of the weekend is for students to grow in understanding of faith through Christ-centered Bible studies. The WBS leaders that the students have been learning from for the last few years lead these studies, which means that the topics for the weekend are tailored to meet the needs of the students in that grade at that time.

The other focus of the weekend comes when we allow students to slow down and get away from the daily pressures of their environment. You can see the stress slip away and watch their countenance change as the freedom to be a teenager in a safe environment and around adults that truly care for them sinks in. This is when the walls break down and students are more willing to open up and let others in—a thing that many students will never experience. UBC students have the distinct privilege to share this moment with fellow peers and adults that are striving to be an apprentice of Christ.

The time together is precious, the scenery is...well... it’s Galveston. But the deep impact of spiritual growth together as a community of believers will be ever lasting.





VISION 2016

Vision is a weekend when hundreds of students (grades 6–12) meet in host homes throughout the Clear Lake community to dig into God’s word, worship deeply and serve fully. Here is what one high school student had to say about it:

Something very unique about the tenth grade girls at University Baptist Church is we all go to different schools. I am the only one who goes to Clear Brook, and there are a few who go to Clear Falls, Clear Lake and Clear Springs. While we all go to different schools, I find it very special that the core group of about nine girls are my very best friends. We all participate in the several youth group activities that are offered, and each time, manage to grow closer than we were before; I know I will always treasure that. VISION Weekend is, by far, one of my most favorite events of the year. Several of us sophomore girls each year will count down the days—and even hours and minutes—until it is time to arrive at our specified host home for VISION!

This year, for VISION 2016, we had the same college student staying with us as last year, Erin Owen. It was honestly an amazing privilege to be able to sit down and fellowship and worship with my best friends and Erin from last year, realizing that time really means nothing when you are surrounded by the people you love, people who so freely show God’s light shining in them. I know I can be myself and talk about my hardest struggles with these great girls and receive feedback that matters.

Over the summer, I dealt with health issues that I still battle today. Through VISION Weekend this year, I was able to know my best friends even more, share the whole experience I have had with my health, and therefore become more connected to them—who in turn helped me connect deeper with my beautiful Heavenly Father. I learned that I can be free in Christ and I need to come to the true realization of who I am in God because my identity is in Christ—not the numbers on a scale nor the amount of food I eat each day. I should love to the extent that I will sacrifice something; in doing this, I can use the talents God has given me to encourage and build others up despite my fears and insecurities.

Lastly, we learned that church goes hand in hand with Jesus Christ. We grow closer to God through church, and that is why I am so blessed to be able to go to school everyday of the week and see good friends, but then go to church on Sunday and see great, God-loving friends. I love VISION weekend because it always comes at the right time; we are always in need of more time with God and His followers and I will never forget the precious times I have with God and His faithful people through experiences like VISION Weekend!

Katy Pyle

Preschool Ministries

Terri Greer

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

It is hard to believe I have been serving at UBC for six years as of May 23. I truly enjoy my job....if you call loving on preschoolers and providing activities for them a job. And teaching those little souls about Jesus makes it all the better!

If you know me well, you know planning and organizing are important to me. So, it was no surprise when it took me the first two weeks to “shut down” on my five week sabbatical. I was lost! Amidst cleaning cabinets and purging closets, I filled the time by visiting six churches seeking how I could best enrich UBC’S Preschool Ministries and Kingdom Care (childcare). With a pen and a list of 25 questions in hand, I interviewed each preschool/children’s pastor about their ministry. While we all use different curriculums and the ministry age span is unique, we share the same struggles in finding enough volunteers, paid workers, and making it to a Sunday morning worship service. Fortunately, we also share the same passion in leading children and their parents to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

I finally settled into the sabbatical on week three, driving to Tennessee to visit family. On the back roads of Somerville, we attended their home church where the pastor was thrilled to have a full congregation. I counted thirteen small pews, approximately 65 people including children. He preached on Christian leadership, and I knew God had already prepared for me to attend that service.

Driving five hours further east to Kingston, my husband and I stayed four days at Whitestone Country Inn near Knoxville, Tennessee. Advertised as “A Sanctuary for the Soul,” it is just that. The 600-acre bed and breakfast resembles a village, complete with a church and the serenity of the Lord. Never has the scripture, “Be still, and know that I am God” come more to life.

Perhaps the best part of my sabbatical was watching my grandson take his first steps and celebrate his first birthday! I also found time to read a few ministry books, rediscover my love for baking, and learned to fly fish.

I’m grateful our church family recognizes the need for our pastors to get away from the day-to-day by providing a much needed retreat every five years. Thank you to all who supported me through prayer and financial giving and to those who kept Preschool Ministries running so smoothly.

Right At Home Moms Baby Bargain Sale

The Right At Home Moms (RAHM) Baby Bargain Sale was held on Saturday, April 16 in the Chapel. This anticipated annual event serves to help defray the Kingdom Care and Bible study material costs for the women in the RAHM Bible study.

To prepare for the sale, RAHM moms collected and donated baby and children’s items throughout the year. Along with vendor booth participation, there was a room full of items for sale. During the event, several shoppers inquired about RAHM, and they received invitations to attend the upcoming summer session (June 22–August 10).

Additional funds were raised during the RAHM Bake Sale, which accompanied the Baby Bargain Sale, and was also held in the Fellowship Hall on the following Sunday. The homemade baked goods were well received by all, and it was a successful year as over \$1,500 dollars was raised for this ministry.

We give many thanks to those outside of RAHM who collected and donated items to our sale, contributing to its success. We also thank Fausto and his Pistoleros for all they do. There are so many people that contribute to making this day a success—we so appreciate everyone.

By Jill Tatum



Easter Springtacular

First there was last year's cancellation of Popsicles on the Playground due to rain. Then VBS was reorganized because of inclement weather. More wet weather forced a cancellation of the favorite Fall Festival, and most lately, wet grounds required the Easter Springtacular to be moved indoors at UBC. So one has to ask—*what is it with Terri and rain?*

Terri Greer, Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries, jokingly asked the same thing. Preschool Ministries is known for its beloved, annual events that engage both young preschoolers and their families. Though weather conditions may have not been ideal for their events this past year, they pushed on and still had a lot of faith and fun! And the springtime Springtacular was no exception.

With the Springtacular being held a few Sundays before Easter, event planners watched the weather closely as this annual tradition since 2011 draws quite a crowd. The staff and volunteers decided just as much fun would be had indoors (rather than out), and that's when the quick thinking took place as many sprung into action!

Three large rooms were creatively transformed into egg hunt locations, and the petting zoo and pony rides that usually spread the UBC campus were relocated under the Chapel porte-cochère. Games and activities were set up in the Fellowship Hall. Delicious food was served up in the kitchen, and in the end, over 500 people attended!

Preschool Ministries was pleased with the successful event, and is delighted to declare that rain won't stop the celebration of the rising of our Lord!





Weekday Ministries

On the Right Path

This winter, Weekday friends and families came together to fund and build a brand new tricycle path at the large playground here at UBC. It started with a Weekday grandparent, John Williams (a.k.a. "Pops"), who designed the new exciting playground feature.

A long-time Weekday family then came forward to make a very generous donation in the memory of their mother/grandmother:

“

I present this gift on behalf of Kathleen Repka Douglas. She loved children and her grandchildren dearly. She cherished her time visiting and picking up Kaylah and Kalyssa at University Baptist Church. She dreamed of doing this type of work in retirement. The teachers and staff at UBC are doing God's work.

Yours in Service,

Nathan & Kim Douglas, Benjamin Douglas, Kaylah and Kalyssa

”

The path was poured on January 11, and Weekday Ministries continued to raise funds as final aspects of the path were put into place. The path has since become an appreciated feature on the playground for our busy children, and should provide much enjoyment for years to come!



On the Right Path cont.

Students from Student Ministries' Vision came to help out as well. Among the students were these former Weekday-ers who enjoyed being a part of the mulch spreading around the track. Things at Weekday come full circle!

Family Pizza & Art Night

Family Pizza & Art Night has been a tradition at UBC Weekday Ministries for over fifteen years! With the Original Works artwork fundraiser, the children's artwork is screened onto items for purchase. Families enjoy pizza while the children show off their artwork, and the older siblings always love to come back and see their former teachers! This year, the Weekday Ministries raised over \$1,000 dollars for their program!



Flowering of the Cross

The Flowering of the Cross is a favorite "seed-planting" event where children from Weekday Ministries contribute their own flowers to decorate a large wooden cross—a special way to be shown that Easter is both beautiful and good.

Weekday Ministries believes you are never too young to serve! This winter and spring, they enjoyed special mission projects like Valentines and bookmarks (February) and planting and selling seedlings for Walden Garden (March).

Worship Ministries

Articles by Matt Marsh

PASTOR OF WORSHIP MINISTRIES



Palm Sunday: Festival of Praise

At seven o'clock in the evening on Palm Sunday, March 20, the Bay Area community enjoyed a classical choral concert featuring University Baptist Church (UBC) and Clear Lake United Methodist Church choirs and orchestras in UBC's Worship Center.

Along with six pastors and three conductors from the two churches, harmonious artists performed numerous great works in preparation for Holy Week. The musical line-up featured works from composers such as Beethoven, Bach, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Mozart and Handel.

One attendee shared her experience with pianist and UBCer Micah Duckett:

“

My husband and I, along with his parents, attended your performance last night! And what a performance it was! You were AMAZING on the piano! I put this event on my calendar the day you posted it on Facebook and I'm so glad that I did. My father in law, who is a 76-year-old Baptist preacher and pianist, is here visiting with my mother-in-law. They are from a very small town in Pennsylvania and visit us once a year. He was so moved by the beauty of this performance, that when it was over, he hugged me and kissed me on the cheek and tearfully said, 'Thank you so much for this.' I couldn't think of a better way to end Palm Sunday. Thanks again for sharing this!"

”



Good Friday Service

In the early afternoon of Friday, March 25, UBC observed Good Friday with worship in the Worship Center. UBC's chamber singers, praise team, lay leaders and pastors presented a heartfelt service of reverent chamber music, hymns, choruses, scripture readings and narration. Over four hundred members and community guests attended the hour-long worshipful service.



Sound of Light: Shining Light Through Music Ministry

Article by Ben Sandstrom

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

We all know and appreciate our contemporary worship band, Sound of Light. They fill our hearts and minds with inspirational, heart-lifting praise music every Sunday morning, at special services like Worship Night and at other events held throughout the year at UBC.

What you may not know is that their ministry is so much more. Besides their mission of providing quality worship planning through “spot-on theology,” they aim, as an extension of UBC, to go beyond our walls and reach into the local community and abroad to inspire others and point them to Christ. Like a prism catching light, they refract and disperse the love found at UBC into many facets of service through devoted leadership and music.

In collaboration with Dunn Bros. Coffee in Friendswood, the band has periodic opportunities to perform at the quaint coffee house in front of audience of local customers. In this relaxed setting, they mingle with listeners, having conversations about faith and making personal connections. People are being led to learn more about Christ, as well as learn about the church family we have here at UBC.

Sound of Light fan Ken Smith shared:



My family and I first encountered Sound of Light in January 2015 at a student disciple weekend...the band led worship in a powerful way that impacted lives, including my own. I will always remember some of the students on their knees in worship and prayer as the band led worship...I have been truly blessed and strengthened through the power of their music as it glorifies the Father, Son and Spirit. I have connected with their lyrics, which has given me a greater sense and appreciation of who God is...



Moving outside the reverent aspect of worship, the band continues their discipleship in other, more unsuspecting venues. In March, Sound of Light released their second album, *New Day*. More “radio centric,” the musical tracks are comparable to that of the contemporary rock band, Foo Fighters, and are expected to reach more of an “alternative” audience and similar venues. The album is available online at cdbaby.com and is also being played by 95.3 FM Revive, a Christian radio station in Friendswood, which broadcasts content that is a combination of both teaching and music.

Shining on, the band is currently in the midst of writing music for another album, this time with a more minimalistic, acoustic sound. The album, while deceptively simple, will run deep, reflecting a sort of personal anthem about life for UBCers—what we are walking through as a church together and also in our communities. The album is scheduled for recording later this year.

New Day is available for download on iTunes, Google Play, Amazon and most other digital music providers, and can also be streamed on Spotify.



Attendance Report

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (4 YRS)					WBS ATTENDANCE (4 YRS)				
WEEKS	2013	2014	2015	2016	WEEKS	2013	2014	2015	2016
Week 1 Jan	1037	965	860	767	Week 1 Jan	921	823	832	No WBS
Week 2 Jan	922	1036	892	1019	Week 2 Jan	886	1006	837	963
Week 3 Jan	1196	1173	1166	1135	Week 3 Jan	976	1039	1023	992
Week 4 Jan	995	1055	1011	1108	Week 4 Jan	998	1069	921	993
Week 5 Jan	*	*	*	1055	Week 5 Jan	*	*	*	1016
Week 1 Feb	958	1009	973	1025	Week 1 Feb	967	1009	998	1018
Week 2 Feb	1011	1011	1013	992	Week 2 Feb	998	947	930	876
Week 3 Feb	964	975	1004	986	Week 3 Feb	983	935	898	859
Week 4 Feb	962	1012	955	894	Week 4 Feb	962	948	848	858
Week 1 Mar	1030	978	937	924	Week 1 Mar	1060	952	913	878
Week 2 Mar	652	776	884	780	Week 2 Mar	670	626	774	611
Week 3 Mar	989	915	880	912	Week 3 Mar	903	810	733	781
Week 4 Mar	1122	999	894	2083	Week 4 Mar	979	948	803	Easter
Week 5 Mar	1943	995	1083	*	Week 5 Mar	Easter	1009	793	*
Week 1 Apr	941	922	2070	925	Week 1 Apr	928	912	Easter	843
Week 2 Apr	984	1007	868	954	Week 2 Apr	953	881	876	903
Week 3 Apr	911	2060	899	968	Week 3 Apr	928	Easter	896	854
Week 4 Apr	982	933	903	956	Week 4 Apr	903	932	918	899
Week 5 Apr	*	*	*	*	Week 5 Apr	*	*	*	*
					Totals		Average		890

* No week that year

WORSHIP AVERAGES			
	9:30	11:00	Totals
Jan-Apr 2015	644	373	1017
Jan-Apr 2016	666	363	1029

WEEKEND BIBLE STUDY AVERAGES					
Jan-Apr 2016	ENROLLED	AVG ATTENDED	Jan-Apr 2015	ENROLLED	AVG ATTENDED
ADULTS	812	404	ADULTS	868	402
CHILDREN	416	152	CHILDREN	314	151
PRESCHOOL	436	199	PRESCHOOL	391	188
STUDENTS	318	135	STUDENTS	312	134
TOTALS	1982	890	TOTALS	1885	875

OTHER ORGANIZATION AVERAGES JAN-APR 2016					
	AVG ATTENDED		AVG ATTENDED		AVG ATTENDED
Children		Preschool		Students	
Bible Blast	42	Easter Springtacular	500+*	Crave (IS)	40
Children Choir	59	Mission Friends	10	Merge (HS)	25
Children's Handbells	26	Praise Kids	35	Youth Choir	49
GA's	29	Praise Kids Concert	225*	Youth Handbells	23
RA's	28	RAHM Spring	28	Vision	210*
Handbell Concert	34*	RAHM Bargain Sale	220*		

*One-time event

Financial Report

University Baptist Church 7 Months October 2015 to April 2016 (58.33%)

	Revenue and Expenditures (a)	Actual (b)	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent to Date
General Contributions	\$2,152,990.22	\$2,152,990.22		(\$2,152,990.22)	
Budget Contributions	\$31,587.63				
Other Income	\$16,642.88	\$16,642.88			
Total Revenue	\$2,201,220.73	\$2,169,633.10	\$0.00	(\$2,169,633.10)	
Missions Ministry	\$215,299.03	\$215,299.03	\$360,000.00	\$144,700.97	59.81%
Communications Ministry	\$38,128.23	\$38,128.23	\$98,000.00	\$59,871.77	38.91%
Externally Focused Ministries	\$8,475.24	\$8,475.24	\$24,000.00	\$15,524.76	35.31%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$47,040.83	\$34,951.72	\$53,100.00	\$18,148.28	65.82%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$10,472.83	\$10,472.83	\$24,000.00	\$13,527.17	43.64%
Adult Ministry	\$31,840.13	\$30,090.13	\$80,000.00	\$49,909.87	37.61%
Student Ministry	\$35,125.51	\$21,825.51	\$48,900.00	\$27,074.49	44.63%
Children Ministry (e)	(\$20,713.12)	(\$25,101.64)	\$39,600.00	\$64,701.64	-63.39%
Preschool Ministry	\$8,230.84	\$8,220.84	\$21,240.00	\$13,019.16	38.70%
Total Ministry	\$373,899.52	\$342,361.89	\$748,840.00	\$406,478.11	45.72%
Administration	\$111,322.03	\$111,272.03	\$182,350.00	\$71,077.97	61.02%
Personnel	\$1,325,345.85	\$1,325,345.85	\$2,248,000.00	\$922,654.15	58.96%
Total Administration	\$1,436,667.88	\$1,436,617.88	\$2,430,350.00	\$993,732.12	59.11%
Facility	\$269,908.22	\$269,908.22	\$463,900.00	\$193,991.78	58.18%
Capital Improvements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fiscal Year Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$269,908.22	\$269,908.22	\$463,900.00	\$193,991.78	58.18%
Total Expenditures	\$2,080,475.62	\$2,048,887.99	\$3,643,090.00	\$1,594,202.01	56.24%
Net Income	\$120,745.11	\$120,745.11			
	Begin	Activity	End		
Designated Funds (c)	\$949,188.16	(\$261,631.11)	\$687,557.05		
Budget Designated Funds	\$26,605.03	\$0.00	\$26,605.03		
Reserve Funds	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00		
Unrestricted Funds			\$218,659.88		
Total Cash & Investments			\$1,432,821.96		
Current Other Assets (d)			\$1,266.64		
Current Liabilities			\$86,738.45		
Mortgage			\$0.00		
Current Cash Balance Available			\$133,188.07		

Kathryn C. King, Treasurer

Footnotes:

- a) "Revenues and Expenditures" lists ministry specific budget contributions made through the year with the top Revenues section of the report rather than combining the contributions with the expenditures for that line item.
- b) "Actual" includes ministry specific contributions included in their respective ministry line. These contributions off-set ministry area expenses. "Actual" column figures are used to compute "% of annual budget."
- c) Designated Funds "Activity" includes expenses for remodel, Mission Training Center and the Pavilion.
- d) Current Other Assets is the Weekday Ministry Receivable.
- e) Children's ministry has collected fees for summer camps but expenses related to those camps have not been booked as of this report.

General Notes:

Designated funds are restricted for specific purposes, Budget Designated Funds are unrestricted funds remaining from the prior fiscal year.

The annual budget listed contains the revised budget numbers.

Membership Report

UBC Membership Additions January-April 2016

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Wyatt Bresnik
- Grace Cowey
- Conner Gautney
- Bob Hines
- Cat Hines
- Kelli Hines
- Jack Kreft
- Joe Lea
- Mitchell May
- Tanner Pyle
- Donna Robinson-Ratliff
- Emily Simmons

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Michael J. Clark
- Gaylyne Lea
- Caleb Lightfoot
- Laura E. Lightfoot
- Randall Lightfoot
- Katelyn M. Neuendorff
- Mason D. Neuchdorff

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Matthew Alejandro Pena
- Jean Denis Placide
- Susan Kaye Sinclair

UBC Membership Deletions January-April 2016

By Letter

- Linda Bushell
- William D. Bushell
- Amber Dodson
- Gene Engel
- Heather Engel
- Carla Flowers
- Patrick Flowers
- Cathy Givens
- Steve Givens
- Charles E. Howard
- Mary Ann Howard
- Barbara J. Thomas
- John G. Thomas
- Reanna Tyree
- Dennis Wainwright
- Mary Wainwright
- Christopher Yee
- Kerri Yee

By Erasure

- Pearl Friesenhahn

By Death

- Clarice (Ty) Bell
- Frances Bennett
- Billy Burt
- Walt Guy
- Merinda Hampton
- Irwin L. Hopson
- Dorothy Parish Rush
- Beverly Sexton
- Dorothy Wright

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Administrative Report

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee recommends the following member to fill a vacated position on UBC's Foundation beginning immediately: Candace Griffithe.

Focus Meeting Minutes January 31, 2016

The Focus Meeting was held in the Great Room at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 89 people in attendance.

The Sr. Pastor's Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Executive Director's Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Facility Updates Report is on pages 6-7 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016. David Mobley gave an update concerning the cement to be poured at the Mission Training Center and also an update on the Pavilion. These projects are scheduled to be completed when we get the settlement from the architect's estate. The renovation on the children's wing will be started as soon as funds are available.

The UBC Missions Report is on pages 8-10 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Senior Adult Ministries Report is on page 11 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Young Adult Ministries Report is on page 12 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 13 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 14 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on 15 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on page 16-17 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 18-19 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

The Financial Report is on page 21-22 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016. The report is for the fiscal year of 2014-2015 and the first two months of the new year budget.

A full report of the membership changes during the period September-December, 2015 is on page 23 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016. During that period, 11 were received by baptism; 23 by letter; and 10 by statement. On page 20 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016 you will find the attendance report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship.

Requests for letters

- Barbara Gibson
- Nathan Pair
- Christina Pair
- Dale St. Dennis
- Mary Ellen St. Dennis
- Delana Stewart
- James Stewart
- Kim Tyree
- Warren Tyree

By Erasure

- Richard Coblentz

By Death

- Doris Hamilton
- Gene Harris
- Bill Shallberg
- Diane Williams

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Butch Peters and a second by David Ward. A prayer was offered for those leaving, that they would be productive in their new churches and for new members who had recently joined UBC by Stuart Skeeter.

The minutes of the September 27, 2015 Focus Meeting is on page 24-25 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion was made by Butch Peters and a second by Kirk Heuser.

The Faithful Service Report is on page 26 of the Book of Reports dated January 31, 2016.

Dr. Steven Laufer asked for motions to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by David Ward and a second by Stuart Skeeter. The meeting was adjourned.

Virginia Thomas
Church Secretary

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