

**FOCUS MEETING**  
Sunday, Jan 28  
7pm, The Hangar



# FOCUS!

SEPT-DEC 2017





# Table of Contents

Focus Meeting — Sunday, January 28, 2018

Senior Pastor’s Report.....	4
Executive Director’s Report .....	5
UBC Ministries.....	6
• Harvey Relief.....	6
• Serving Ministries.....	8
• Care Ministries.....	11
• Faith@Home .....	11
• Adult Ministries .....	13
• Primetime Ministries .....	14
• Men’s Ministries.....	14
• Women’s Ministries.....	14
• Young Adult Ministries.....	17
• Student Ministries .....	18
• Children’s Ministries .....	20
• Preschool Ministries .....	23
• Weekday Ministries .....	26
• Worship Ministries .....	28
Attendance Report .....	29
Financial Report.....	30
Membership Report.....	32
Administrative Report .....	33
• Minutes of Previous Focus Meeting .....	33
• UBC Foundation.....	35

# Senior Pastor

We spent much of Fall 2017 discussing the Core Values of our church family at UBC. The process for our staff and leaders was not to create values, but rather to describe values that we see already in place. What are the qualities and characteristics that the typical UBC member cares about and that we collectively seek to embody and preserve?

One of these values is Transforming Communities. For more years than I have been at our church, UBC has cared greatly about being a difference-making family in communities ranging from those in which we live to those where we have friends and family around the world. As you read through many of the stories in this Focus Book, I hope you'll see this value represented on just about every page.

In addition to the many ways our staff and members spent the Fall Semester investing in local communities, I had the opportunity to spend four Saturdays teaching a group of undergraduate-level pastors and developing ministers in New York City. Because UBC allowed me a few days away (and one Sunday stuck in Tampa), as well as ministry funding to cover my flights, we collectively were able to contribute to the ongoing transformation in a handful of communities that you might not otherwise hear about.

We spent the semester working through a New Testament Survey course, talking not only about the Bible and its interpretation, but also how to think about communicating it to churches in preaching and teaching settings, as well as how to connect the New Testament to many of the challenges facing the urban church in America today. The work we do at UBC, seeking to be intentional in how we connect the Gospel of Jesus to our rapidly changing society, and seeking to be faithful to the Word of God in scripture as well as the Word of God emulated in Jesus' example, was all on display as the students and I dialogued about how to do the same in their very diverse communities.

Justin is working with a church on Staten Island that ministers to many of the blue-collar work force that keeps Manhattan running: subway employees, NYPD staff, NY Fire Department personnel, and many others. Ratan is from Bangladesh and is a leader and developing minister with a Bengali-speaking church in Queens. His observations about their Christian community tucked away amid more prominent Hindu and Muslim communities were always intriguing, especially in light of the current struggles in his home country between those two religious groups. And Jehovani is training to become a pastor while also serving in a Spanish-speaking church and community in Brooklyn, made up of people predominantly from El Salvador.

These are just a few of the communities being touched by our church family, and there are many more of which even I am not aware. I hope the value of being a community of Christ-followers seeking to transform communities, with the Lord's help, is one that you share, one that you see throughout our church and her ministries, and that you participate in as the Lord leads you. Thanks for all that you do to help UBC be the unique, influential family that it is.

Steven Laufer  
SENIOR PASTOR

# Executive Director

I have a print in my office of my favorite painting in the Louvre, Saint Joseph the Carpenter. It features Joseph working on a wooden timber while a young Jesus holds a candle to illuminate the work. The piece reminds me of my relationship with my dad. He wasn't a demonstrative person when it came to expressing affection. Over the years I learned that we connected best when we were working on projects together. Since my dad rarely hired things done, we had plenty of projects, from working on cars, building barns at our property in East Texas, to building the house they would later retire to on Lake Livingston.

What I remember in all those projects was that my best learning occurred when the projects didn't go as planned. When we had to really think through a solution or simply try various ways to get around an issue, I learned.

I'm reminded of this as I consider the last trimester of 2017. Harvey hurled us into an entire season of learning. It highlighted incredible caring nature of this family we call UBC. As we launched into helping our neighbors and each other, the Lord taught us so much about depending on His provisions. We learned to be what many described as angels showing up to help when all seemed helpless. Sometimes we learned to simply stop and listen, even though there was much to be done. Sometimes we learned to receive, which is strangely more difficult to accept. But over and over the Lord provided, just in time, in just the right way, and only He could get credit.

One example stands out of a desperate need for a vehicle for a single mom expressed around the Harvey Central table. Within minutes our interim worship pastor pulls me to the side to say an organization wants to donate a gently used vehicle to a needy person. We then begin to discuss how they will pay the taxes on the vehicle and someone walks in to say their dad want to donate some funds but want to help a specific family or person. Now the single mom is driving a 2-year-old vehicle, transferred and titled in her name. To God be the glory.

Multiply that story hundreds of times and its impossible to miss the valuable lesson of the beautiful mosaic of God's vast resources and how He chooses to deploy those resources through His people.

Easy living is what most of us strive to achieve. Yet it is almost entirely during hardships that I have grown in my understanding of my dad's and the Father's love for me. So, as you read through the Focus Book, notice and learn something about the Father's love for you and the call to take that to those you encounter.

Be strong and courageous,

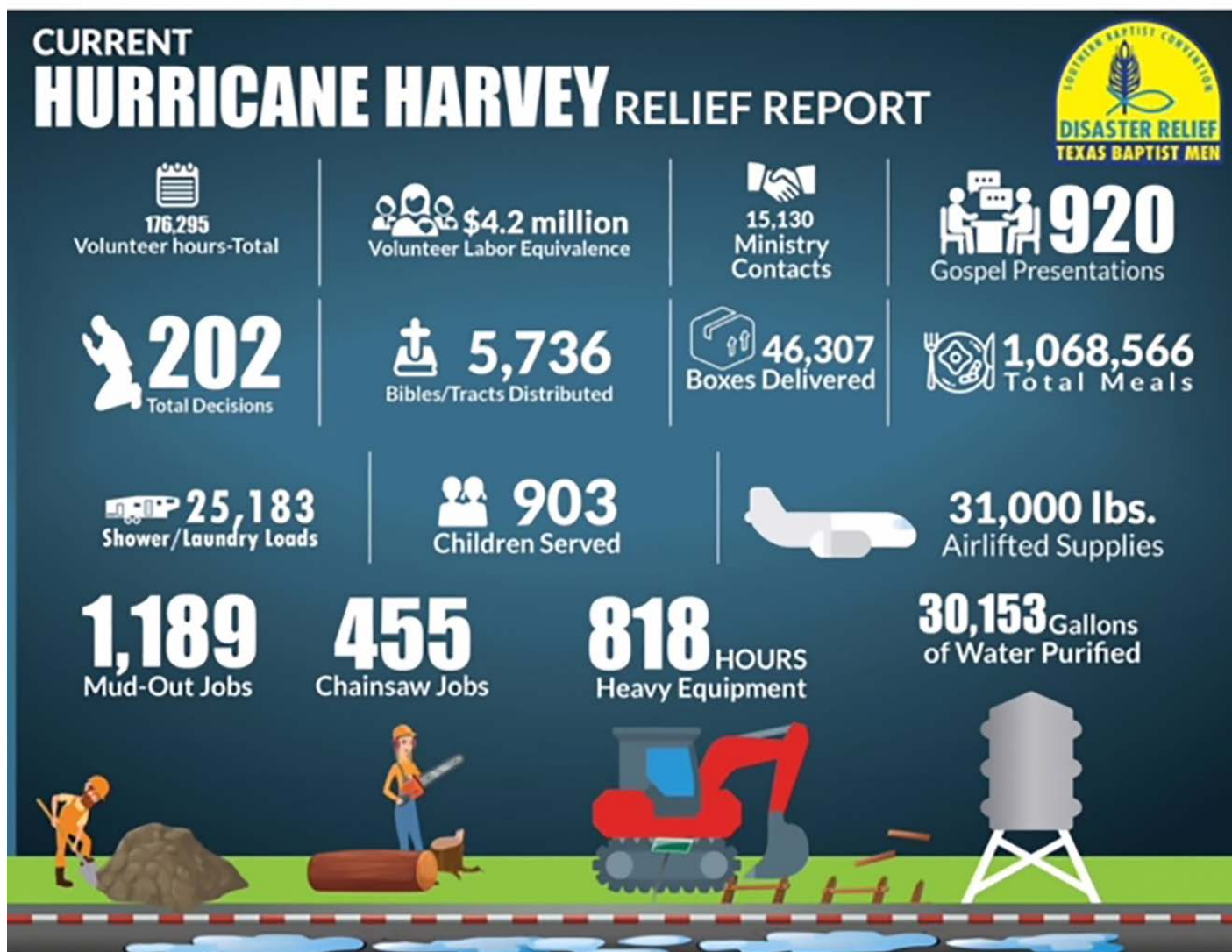
David Mobley  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Harvey Relief

## Post Harvey Jam

On Sunday, September 10th, UBC Serving Ministries collaborated with Ben Sandstrom and several worship team leaders from the contemporary service to create a community event at the UBC Pavilion called the "Post Harvey Jam." After surviving Hurricane Harvey and almost two weeks of clean-up, participants were excited to enjoy three hours of live music, smoked BBQ, and socializing.

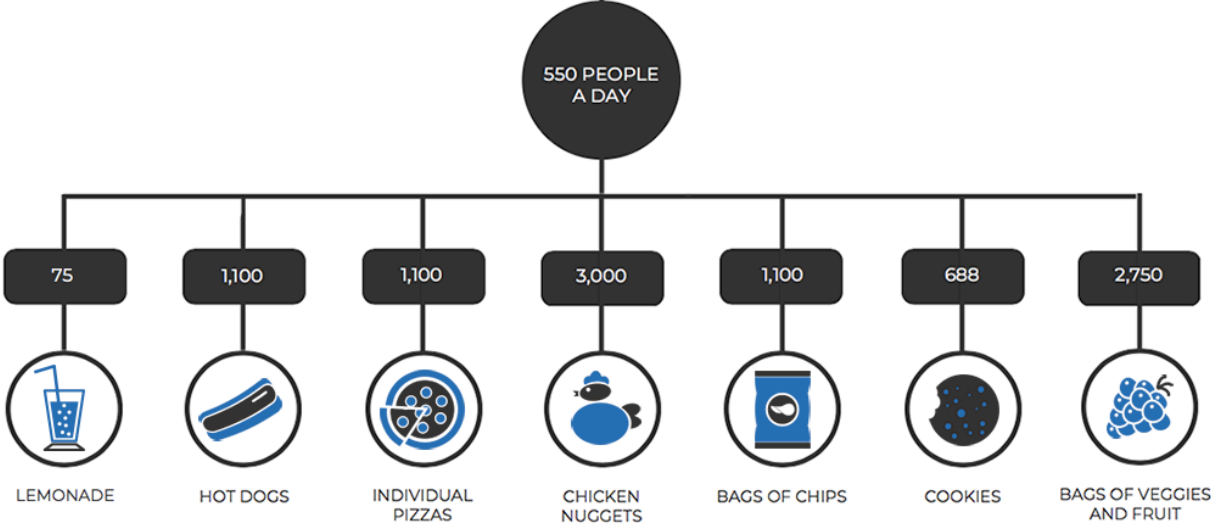
Participants were asked to bring mosquito repellent and sleeping bags to help our local ministry partner, The Mercy Tree. Approximately 100 cans of bug spray were donated along with 60 sleeping bags that Gina Evans, director of The Mercy Tree, gave to homeless clients. Thanks to all who participated and donated to this community event!



Statewide statistics from Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief teams.

# CAMP HARVEY

*What could 550 kids and leaders per day eat during Camp Harvey? Whew!!!*



Following Harvey, local schools were slow to reopen and many parents were tasked with completing extensive home repairs. In order to give parents a helping hand, UBC held a week-long day camp for children. During Camp Harvey, Rhena O’Neal and her team served 550 people a day. They prepared 1,100 hot dogs, 1,100 individual pizzas, and 3,000 chicken nuggets. They served 1,100 bags of chips, bagged 688 dozen cookies, bagged 2,750 bags of carrots and grapes and mixed up 75 gallons of lemonade.



# Serving Ministries

## No Need Among You

The “No Need Among You” conference in Houston (October 25-27) brought together churches and nonprofit organizations from across Texas who are dedicated to holistic transformational ministry. The conference is sponsored by the Texas branch of the Christian Community Development Association. Our UBC partners from Buckner Ministries are leaders in TXCCDA and the conference was led by Jimmy Dorrell, founder of Mission Waco.

There were amazing workshops and speakers including Robert Lupton, writer of *Toxic Charity*, whose book is in the same line of thinking as *When Helping Hurts*. To learn more, please visit: [txccdn.net](http://txccdn.net). Next year’s “No Need Among You” conference will be in Waco, October 3-5th, 2018.

## Harvey News

During the post-Harvey cleanup, a team of UBC-ers mobilized to help our friends at Islamic Center of South Houston. The center had experienced a significant amount of water damage. A few weeks later, UBC had a unique visit from Middle East Broadcasting Network, an Arabic language media group established during the Bush administration. MBN broadcasts exclusively in Arabic throughout the Middle East and was interested to hear the story of how and why a Baptist church would reach out to an Islamic Center.





## The House LA

In September, UBC hosted Pastor Louis Kang from our new church partnership The House LA. In both worship services, Pastor Louis and our own Pastor Steve discussed several of our mutual church values as we learned about the challenges of this church plant in downtown Los Angeles. A small intergenerational vision team from UBC also visited THLA in late September to plan engagement opportunities for the upcoming year. We have a week scheduled for a serving trip this year: July 29 - August 3. If interested in this partnership, contact [aglenn@ubc.org](mailto:aglenn@ubc.org) and to learn more about The House LA visit [thehousesla.com](http://thehousesla.com).



## Angel Tree

2.7 million American children have a parent in prison. One of the ways we show we care about these families is by participating in Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree toy drive each year. Thank you to everyone who picked up all 60 angels from the tree on the very first day they were available! In addition, many of you gave gift cards to help purchase even more gifts for the children. We give the gifts to the custodial parent who then passes the gifts on to the children in the name of the incarcerated parent. [prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree](http://prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree)

## Philippines

A vision trip to visit Troy and Thai Beaver in the Philippines took place in October. A dozen planners and organizers from UBC engaged in several ministry opportunities with the Beavers and their ministry partners. These activities included a one-day VBS event at a church, complete with bounce house, crafts, music program, and lunch!

This trip gave our team an "en vivo" (live) experience of the week-long VBS activities that the Beavers lead throughout the entire Philippine summer months of April and May each year. In addition, the Beavers' network with local public schools to provide free lunch programs for children, with great success. Schools that offer free lunch programs have triple or quadruple their typical student attendance because students' basic needs for good nutrition are being met. One can't study and learn on an empty stomach!

UBC is currently building a team to travel to the Philippines July 15-25, 2018, to engage in several ways with the Beavers. Please contact [aglenn@ubc.org](mailto:aglenn@ubc.org) if you are interested and visit [worshiponwheels.com](http://worshiponwheels.com) to learn more about the Beavers and their ministry in the Philippines.



Schools that offer free lunch programs have triple or quadruple student attendance.

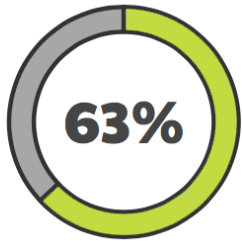


# Care Ministries

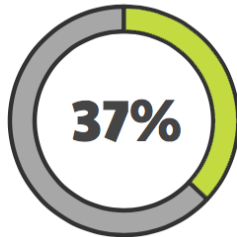
## Caregiver Support Seminar

Provides Advice and Hope for Anxious UBC Caregivers

As the population of the United States continues to age, providing care for a family member with a long-term illness is one of the least recognized but most prevalent issues in our society today. Many families do not have the resources to provide professional care for their loved one and must rely on a family member to serve as the caregiver.



Ages 65↑



Ages 64↓

Most but not all persons in need of long-term care are elderly. Approximately 63% are persons aged 65 and older (6.3 million); the remaining 37% are 64 years of age and younger (3.7 million). -caregiver.org

In October of this year, Dr. Evelyn Weaver, a successful online graduate instructor, presented a four-week seminar at UBC designed to provide advice and hope for those who are in-home caregivers for a family member with a long-term illness. Dr. Weaver's insights were as fresh as her experience of being a caregiver for her husband who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2013. She developed the seminar to share the many resources that she has found to successfully navigate her current journey as a caregiver.

This outstanding seminar provided resources that are necessary for a caregiver to maintain their own physical, emotional, and spiritual health as they care for others. It also enabled caregivers to understand how to develop a support team of professionals, family members, and friends. Participants received practical advice on handling some problems related to providing daily care for someone with a terminal illness. The seminar was a combination of the latest information, practical advice, group dialog and inspirational music.

An unexpected result of the seminar was that the English and Russian speaking husband of one of the participants, who spoke Russian and very little English, translated the workbook materials into Russian so his wife, who was also a seminar participant, could understand the contents. Now the Caregiver Seminar resources are in both Russian and English. For more information on this fantastic ministry, contact Dr. Weaver at [CaregiverMarathon.com](http://CaregiverMarathon.com).

## Faith@Home

### UBC DATE NIGHT

UBC hosted a Date Night on November 10, 2017! The purpose of this intentional date night was to: support, enrich, build up, and strengthen marriages. There were approximately 35 couples who participated. Some couples took advantage of Kingdom Care at UBC then received a goodie bag that included conversation starters for their evening out! So many times in marriages, couples do not talk about their relationship...and these conversation starters helped get the conversation going. It was a great opportunity for couples to reconnect.



## Faith Partners

A Ministry of Faith@Home and UBC Deacons: Walking Alongside Those Who are Struggling

The Faith Partners Ministry began more a year ago. Faith Partners are individuals who are trained to walk alongside you if you need someone who can listen to, pray with and suggest resources for you.

This past spring, fourteen people began training as Faith Partners. The training equipped them to be active listeners. They were prepared, waiting to see who God would send to them. Then Hurricane Harvey happened and UBC set up Harvey Central, helping people to clean up after the disaster. But people didn't just need physical help, they also needed emotional help and someone to sit and listen. Guess what...UBC had trained Faith Partners to do just that!



Joan Stewart shared a part of her story as she visited people all over the area.

I started Saturday, and by Sunday afternoon I had been to Dickinson, Seabrook, El Lago, and Friendswood. Throughout my visits I was truly dumbstruck by what I saw. The extent of destruction and need was overwhelming. "Oh God please help them" was my constant thought. All I could do was offer water and listen while trying to present comfort. One retired couple was in good spirits, sitting in their gutted home discussing that now was a good time to downsize.

It was a precious experience to see and hear the hope, exhaustion, confusion, and grief while being present. My time was made better by the training and insights gained by being a part of the Faith Partners group.

## Faith@Home...We're Here to Help Parent Forums

This fall, the Faith@Home team was able to host five parent forums, each focusing on a different topic. A total of 138 parents attended at least one of these sessions.

The first forum, "Helping Kids Deal With Stress" was led by Jenny Deitz, LMFT, and Amy Carlson, MS, RD. Not only did Jenny and Amy discuss strategies parents could use to help their kids with stress and anxiety, but also strategies for parents to help themselves! Pat Conner, from Sugar Creek Baptist Church, led a session on "How to Have 'The Talk' With Your Preteen." Pat knows that talking with children about sex can seem daunting to parents, but in her talk, she emphasized that it is a privilege. She also shared practical guidelines and Biblical principles to preteen parents.

Another session was "Strong Willed Kids" with Debbie Simmons. She presented ways to help parents create a connection with their strong-willed child, ways to support their family, and ways to help a child thrive. It was underscored that life is hard, but God has given us great insight into how to love these kiddos and parent them with both nurture and structure.

In the session, "Making Sense of Nonsense: The Teenage Brain," Kimberly Collins (STCH Counselor, LPCIntern) shared with parents how the brain develops, how behavior coincides with each stage of brain development, and how this can help parents have an impact on their teen.

*Continued on next page*

Sabra Barnett shared her story as well.

My husband and I volunteered at Wedgewood. This school was a temporary shelter for a couple of hundred people. My husband ran errands and I mostly listened to people's stories and prayed with some. On Thursday afternoon, there was an announcement that everyone had to leave the shelter within 24 hours. If they had somewhere to go but no transportation, transportation would be provided. If they had nowhere to go, there were buses to transport them to other shelters. My job was to go around and hug people after the announcement if they were alarmed or anxious. I met such sweet people during the days spent at the shelter.

I was also able to go out on a work team from UBC. When I got to one site, a woman was walking around the pool wringing her hands and crying. As we talked, she told me that she had gone to her sister's home when they began to see water coming in the house. Now standing here, looking at the damage, the stress just kept adding up. Her workplace had flooded as well, and they needed her back on the job to begin planning recovery. She was under tremendous pressure and didn't see how she could do it all. I barely said a word, other than nodding and listening. Soon, we worked on prioritizing a list of next steps and prayed together over the coming days and months.

What a blessing!

God's timing is so perfect. The Faith Path training was just in time.



### *We're here to help concluded*

Parents learned practical ways to help build a positive and lasting relationship with their teenager.

The last session was "Teens and Technology." Stephen Stalcup shared about the importance of a parents' involvement to help their child journey through the digital age. He also spoke about what apps teens are using and which ones to be concerned about, monitoring apps, and how to help parent the teen with technology in their hands!

## **Adult Ministries**

### GroupLink

Finding ways to belong, prepare, and serve at UBC is best accomplished in our groups. One way that we have developed to help new guests and members connect with group life at UBC is a bi-annual connection event called GroupLink. Between our services and following the 11:00 hour, leaders from fifteen of our ongoing groups were available at tables in the Fellowship Hall for people who were looking for a group to come by, get information, and meet some of our leaders. Numerous families and individuals found new connections for group life through this informative and connecting event. Also on this Sunday, we debuted a new format to our Groups Guide that provides information about all of our adult groups.

## Primetime Ministries

God's Word gives us sacred songs of joy and grief, lament and exultation, and complaint and thanksgiving. These ancient treasures are valuable life principles, profound encouragement, and lasting strength for all seasons. Recently Guy Cagle and Micah Duckett led a packed Chapel of senior adults for a Hymn Sing, which took place during the regular WBS 11:00 session.

In 2017, our senior adults have enjoyed some of the most outstanding musicians and speakers, one of whom was Stuart Rothberg of Sagemont Church. Stuart is a Jewish Christian and was very informative in his presentations.

We also have had some of the best in-town and out-of-town trips that were organized by Martha Monroe. She already has trips planned for February and March.

We closed 2017 with a group of professional musicians, A Capella, singing Victorian Carols. The large crowd enjoyed and appreciated the performance of favorite Christmas songs and even participated with the group.



## Men's Ministries

### Men's Ministry Breakfasts

Part of our ongoing development of a growing men's ministry is to provide times for men to gather around tables and enjoy breakfast at UBC. During the fall, we had two of these breakfasts that both saw a great group of men come out. Our first breakfast, in September, included a workday to help with the ongoing relief efforts related to Hurricane Harvey. After enjoying a hearty Luby's breakfast, the men helped with over a dozen projects around the area. The second breakfast was a time of eating, being encouraged about what is going on with men's ministry, and then spending time praying with each other. We have some great breakfasts lined up for 2018, and these will continue to serve as a conduit for developing a strong men's ministry at UBC.

## Women's Ministries

### Thinking Faith Academy

We began Thinking Faith Academy because women were asking for "more." More in-depth discipleship, more accountability, more application...just more. The fall semester included homework and biblical application led by Charlene Wolfe in the areas of forgiveness, guilt, trials and suffering, temptation, worry, fear, anger and much more. We expected maybe 20 or 30 women, but more than 90 women signed up for this challenging course. Testimonies started coming in from women whose lives were changed. We are very excited to continue TFA in the spring with a new semester devoted to an overview of the whole Bible. Feel free to jump in anytime! Classes meet on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

## Tapestry Dinner

Tapestry Dinner is Women's Ministries' largest outreach event of the year. Women brought friends and neighbors to share a meal around beautifully decorated tables. (A big thank you to UBC for installing the new sound system in the Fellowship Hall! We could hear the announcements!) We were able to host six tables of international women, many of whom wore a formal dress from their own countries. The program included dancers from Ad Deum Dance Company and a message by our own Amy Carlson. Amy shared wonderful thoughts and stories about our place at God's table. Many women reached out for more information about UBC and the ministries we provide. Thank you to everyone who helped make this huge event such a wonderful success.



## Illumination Arts Ministry

Illumination Arts Ministry's mission is to bring together visual artists and art lovers for the purpose of forming an artist community where we can fellowship, grow spiritually, artistically and personally while honoring Christ through art. Our guiding Bible verse is Matthew 5:16, "let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

We have been meeting monthly since September 2016 and have had many wonderful guest artists in that time. We offer a place for anyone to come learn from guest artists who share their stories and teach their art forms. TJ Dyer taught drawing and Zentangle, Julie Ranna demonstrated Abstract Mixed Media, Allie Demers instructed us how to make paper art out of magazines, Stephanie Glenn did a Praying in Color session and Julie Ranna showed us how to make Christmas ornaments using melted crayons. John Robertson talked to us about the Art Ministry group IMAGO at First Baptist Church in Houston and Patricia Donham spoke to us about framing to enhance your artwork. Michele Patrick, a mosaic artist, shared about her art ministry called Holy Broken Holy His.

We have had a wonderful response to the ministry with many people thanking us for giving them a place to learn something new and explore their God-given creativity. Many people have expressed the excitement of seeing more creative arts being encouraged and expressed in our church.



## Working Women's Fellowship

As women, we are pulled in many different directions and it's easy to feel overwhelmed by all of the demands of work, family, and everything else. Working Women's Fellowship hopes to give professional women a place to gather and provide mutual support for living out faith in the work environment and the community. This fall we started late due to Hurricane Harvey but got going in October with a testimony by artist Michelle Patrick. November's gathering happened at UBC's Tapestry Dinner, and in December we were delighted to hear from Beverly Beard as she helped us understand the importance of making room for hospitality in our busy lives.



## Embrace Grace

Embrace Grace is a group that welcomes young women who are expecting a child without the support of a husband. She learns to receive the grace of God and feel welcome and comfortable in a church among supporters who love her and will help her as she begins the journey of motherhood. There is a collective baby shower, and at the end of the semester, there is a Princess Party where she receives a completion award, a tiara, and a word from God before a dinner provided just for her. She also receives a makeover and a mother and child portrait. Thank you to everyone who helped make all of this happen including Kelsea Svockak, Michelle Tanner, Trish Russo, Laura Ozinga, Connie Laird and many, many others. Your efforts were beautiful.



## Young Adult Ministries

### College & Career Christmas Party

With the holiday break bringing back so many of our students, we took time on December 18 to gather together and celebrate the Christmas holiday for our ongoing college and career ministry. Around 40 students and young adults enjoyed some food, fellowship, conversation, and catching up with what has been going on with their studies and professional development. This is an annual event that often sees faces come back into our ministry life who grew up at UBC. Be sure to check our College and Career group that meets, usually on Sunday mornings, for connecting biblical truth with everyday living.

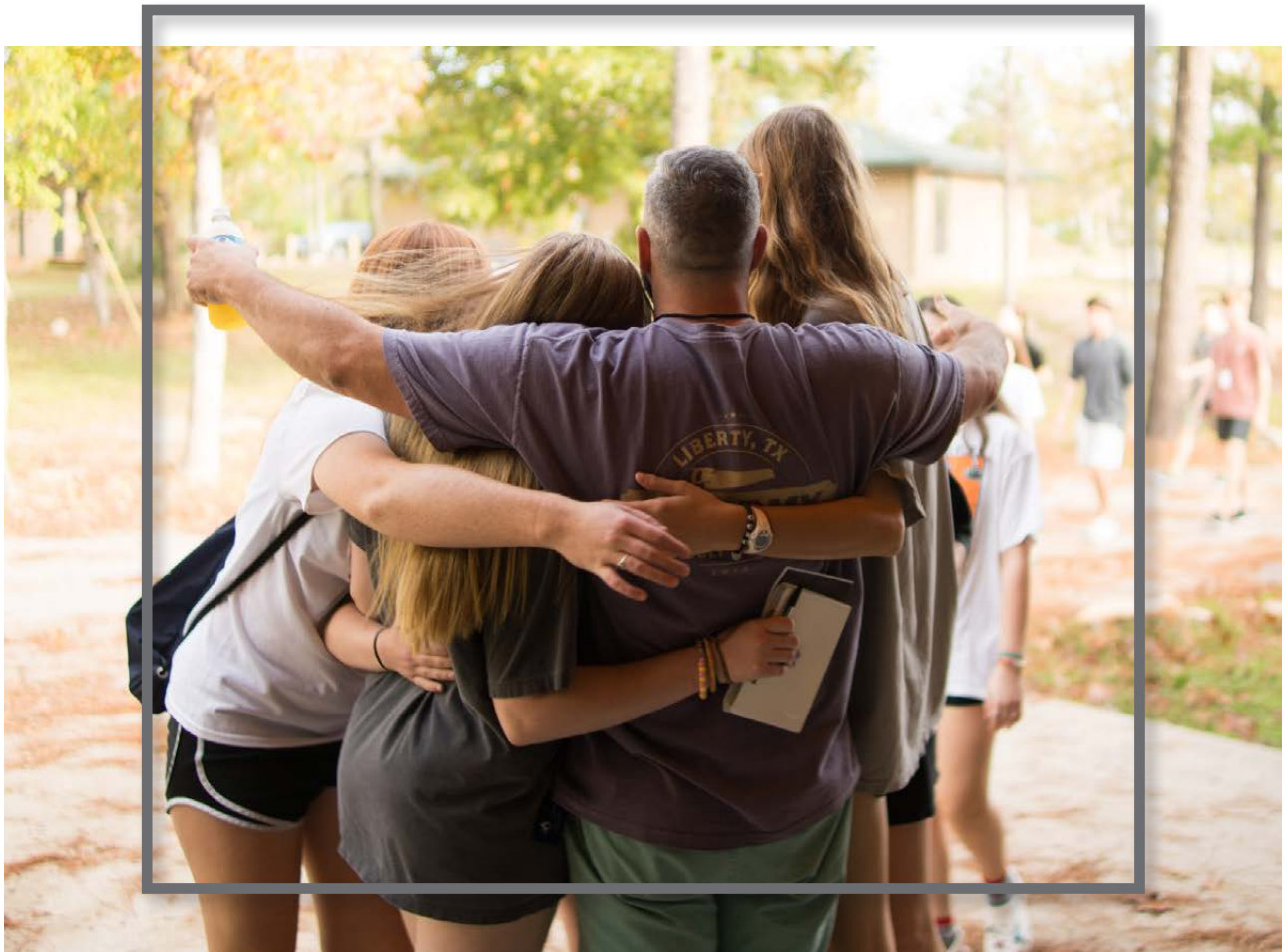


# Student Ministries

## Engage Retreat 2017

The national forest holds a certain grandeur. As you drive down the red dirt roads with trees towering far above, you instantly become aware that you are not as important as you once might have thought of yourself. The woods are so thick that as the sun falls light become a commodity. It is in this setting that our teenagers immersed themselves for a weekend of worship, Bible study, recreation and rest.

We invited our good friend Chris Burkley to speak to our students about aligning their lives with God's word even when it is uncomfortable or not the most popular way. Chris challenged our students to make the word of God their first authority and not the opinion of the world or social media. The Gladsome Light led us in worship as they have done many times before. Our students had an amazing weekend of rest which allowed them to turn their minds to the things of Christ. Thank you UBC for giving our students this opportunity.





## Children's Ministries



### Kids' Renovation Campaign

The Kids' Renovation Campaign is complete! You may recall that our Preschool, Children and Student Ministries were spread out across our campus with preschoolers in the Learning Center, children in the Education Building, and students in the Learning Center. It was a challenge to our UBC families and very confusing to our visitors.

The renovation campaign creates a greater accommodation for our children, improves ease of transition between worship services, increases the functionality of space, and enhances safety. In addition, it provides our children with the skills and tools they need and allows them to envision how they might serve in their community and around the world while reaching their full potential in Christ.

The renovations completed:

- Bathroom modifications to move the entrance into the children space for improved safety as well as making them kid-friendly
- Entrance update to provide a roomy welcome area with check-in and guest connection
- Age appropriate aesthetics reflecting UBC's Belonging, Preparing and Serving themes
- Room modifications to maximize space and update teaching technologies
- Lighting and sound updates in the Great Room to accommodate children large group time

We were challenged at the start of renovations to create walls in our halls that were both educational and inspirational. With a child's perspective in mind, we have taken the Belonging, Preparing, and Serving vision of our church and interpreted that visually. Using an airplane, we've invited kids to join a spiritual journey of Serving. The journey starts at home but then kids can "travel" to the Dominican Republic, Africa, Central America, or meet the Navajo people. The sky's the limit. We've incorporated the theme into a fun mural to help kids imagine together as if they are in an airport and could travel to these places. Then, to support Belonging and Preparing, I'm excited that every single week kids will see five faith goals as a part of a treasure that we hope they find. We hope they will learn how to navigate through the Bible, learn how to pray, live a life of worship and learn how to share and defend their faith.

-Karen Murphy, Associate Pastor of Children's Ministry

Be sure to stop by and check out the renovations!



## Galloway School

Galloway School, in Friendswood, had substantial damage from Hurricane Harvey. UBC had the pleasure of hosting the students and teachers for two months in our newly renovated kids' area. The staff shared that the space was kid-friendly and fun to be in.

Thanks to all who participated and made this possible. Generations to come will be blessed and enriched by our new space and by the ministries launched through the imaginations of UBC kids.



I can honestly say that  
I MISSED MY CHURCH FAMILY  
while I was away.

We spent our downtime talking about their ministry and sharing ideas. We are hoping to have the opportunity for Thai and her assistant to join me at the Children's Pastor's Conference next year.

On Sunday, along with the Beavers, I flew to the small island of Boracay and enjoyed seven nights of rest and refreshment. We hung out, read, snorkeled and enjoyed each other's company. We also had some crazy cultural experiences like jumping in a cart attached to a motorcycle - and living to tell about it! The last three nights of the trip were in Manila sightseeing.

After arriving back in Houston, I headed to Dallas to spend a few days with my former interns, Mark and Lydia Padroza. Mark's dad passed away suddenly so I wanted to spend some time with them. I also made a couple of trips to San Antonio to be with my mom.

While in town, I did a lot of reading and resting. I worked my way thru the book, *Dangerous Calling* by Paul David Tripp. I read it very slowly - as it was a time of introspection for me. A heart check for sure. I also had coffee, lunch, and dinner with various UBC families.

On the three Sundays I was in town, I visited three different churches: Second Baptist Baytown, FBC Pasadena and The Woodlands, FBC. It is always good having this opportunity! There were some very impressive things about each church, but overall, I walked away with a renewed appreciation for my church and my team.

I can honestly say that I MISSED MY CHURCH FAMILY while I was away.

Once again, thank you so very much for this incredible privilege and opportunity.

## Karen Sabbatical

I am overwhelmed and grateful for my time of sabbatical which started with a trip to the Philippines to visit with our UBC missionaries, Troy and Thai Beaver. I have talked about going on this trip for several years. I arrived in Manila on Thursday, September 28, and the first stop was the Manila American Cemetery where US soldiers from WWII are buried. Over 34,000 names of MIA Allied troops are engraved on monuments along with every state seal of the United States. I stood in silent awe.

When I arrived at Troy and Thai's house, I was greeted by Roland and MJ (The Beavers' assistants). MJ had prepared fried bananas for us. WOW!

I stayed at Troy and Thai's house the first three nights. During the day, we visited and went sightseeing, toured the mall, the "wet market," and the school where the kids attend. I also participated in a one day VBS with the Beavers and about 65 kids. The Beavers led the kids in singing American songs and Thai's nephew performed a mime to "I Pledge Alliance to the Lamb." The kids then broke into teams and went through three different stations, one of which was a station where they were fed. Troy pulled out his Captain America costume and the kids loved it. It was humbling, inspiring, and enlightening to have the privilege of watching the Beavers in action. I had such a fantastic day with them. We wrapped the evening up with a "food fight" which is their term for a Philippine Feast. This was a cultural experience!

# Preschool Ministries

## Mission Friends

by Melanie Cureton

Three missionaries were the focus for the fall semester of Mission Friends. The first missionary, Ms. Procita, lives in Calgary, Canada. She works in community centers and plans sports camps at her church. A fun fact we learned about Canada was how maple syrup is made. We enjoyed eating pancakes with maple syrup! The second missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas who work with the deaf ministry. They teach deaf people sign language and then teach them about Jesus. We learned how to spell our first names in sign language and the signs used for mom and dad. We also learned about our five senses and used them to taste apples. Service dogs can also help people who are deaf. A fun activity was learning how a deaf child could play the game Duck, Duck, Goose. Next, Mr. and Mrs. Lane are missionaries in Niger and go to villages to tell stories of Jesus. The people in Niger live in huts. We learned about animals in Africa and made a lion puppet. We also learned about the Sahara Desert and how people live in the desert. We also colored pictures of the flags from the countries we studied this fall.

## Right at Home Moms

Our fall semester, September 13 – December 6, brought the study of *Calm My Anxious Heart* by Linda Dillow. We tend to worry a lot about our children, friendships, careers, families, spouses – the list could go on and on. At times, it's a struggle to let go and be free from anxiety. This study taught us to experience the calm and contentment we find promised in God's holy word. The 17 women registered found encouragement through the large group study and understanding and prayer within small groups.

We welcomed a few new babies to the RAHM family and loved on the moms by providing diapers and meals. We enjoyed playdates outside of the Wednesday morning study and concluded the semester with a Christmas cookie exchange.

Right at Home Moms is a family ministry of University Baptist Church designed to support mothers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are modifying their work schedule or leaving the workplace to stay home and raise their children. Our goal is to help new moms find practical Bible study, genuine encouragement, time to refresh their spirit, and a network of Godly friends in a similar phase of life. We believe that motherhood is the hardest but most fulfilling work you'll ever find! Join us on Wednesday mornings! For more information, visit [www.ubc.org/right-at-home-moms](http://www.ubc.org/right-at-home-moms).

–Terri Greer

## Fall Festival 2017

With a high chance of rain and the Houston Astros playing Game 6 in the World Series, we weren't sure of the outcome for our annual Fall Festival on October 31. Yet, God was good - as He always is - and diminished the rain with a cool breeze for a beautiful night. A television was provided for those wanting to watch the first pitch at 7:20pm.

Kids arrived in their finest costumes of pirates and princesses, superheroes and ninjas, butterflies and astronauts. Perhaps the best "look-a-like" costume was our Senior Pastor, Steve Laufer, dressed as Ben Sandstrom, UBC's Contemporary Worship Leader!

We had over 100 more guests this year than last, with a total of 1,751.



Other Church  
Family  
681



No Church  
Family  
442



UBC  
Members  
259



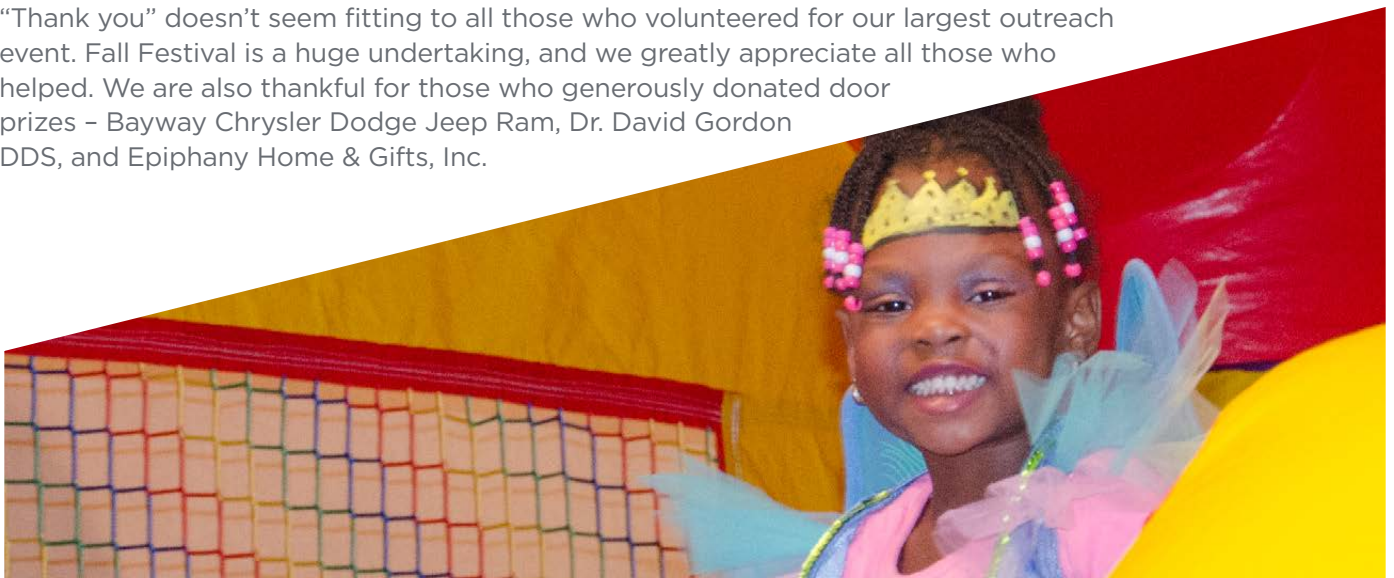
UBC  
Volunteers  
369



## 1,751 Total Attendees

We follow-up with Fall Festival attendees and invite them to our Christmas services and other Family Ministry events.

"Thank you" doesn't seem fitting to all those who volunteered for our largest outreach event. Fall Festival is a huge undertaking, and we greatly appreciate all those who helped. We are also thankful for those who generously donated door prizes - Bayway Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Dr. David Gordon DDS, and Epiphany Home & Gifts, Inc.







# Weekday Ministries

## Harvey Moms



Weekday Ministries had the honor of partnering with Harvey Moms for a service project this December. Their motto this holiday season was BE THE JOY. They wanted to encourage families to slow down, reflect on how Harvey has impacted our lives, and take time to BE THE JOY in someone's life. Families in Weekday Ministries collected gifts to bring to children in the Bay Area who lost everything in the flood. Many kids lost toys that meant the world to them. The Harvey Moms then hosted a party at UBC for all of the families receiving gifts. What a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together! If you want more information about Harvey Moms, send them an email [atharveymoms17@gmail.com](mailto:atharveymoms17@gmail.com), or search Harvey Moms on Facebook and Instagram.

## Classroom Visitors

One of our four-year-old classes had a visitor today!! Dr. Seth Rehrer is a dad in our program. He came to one of our classes today to share with the kids how doctors protect themselves from germs and why they wear what they do.



An astronaut and dad in our program, Mr. Bob Hines, came to talk with our four-year-olds. He brought his space suit and shared with the kids what astronauts do and how they train.

In coordination with the astronaut support team at NASA, the UBC Comm team was able to provide UBC sermons to astronauts Randy Bresnik and Shane Kimbrough in space this past year!

Weekday hosted our annual Muffins for Moms, where we celebrated our moms, grandmothers and aunts. What a wonderful morning of celebration!



We celebrated our dads, grandfathers and uncles at Donuts for Dads! What a great opportunity to fellowship with our families.

Weekday collected almost 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! We hosted a special chapel where Pastor Aaron prayed over the sweet children all over the world who will be receiving the boxes we collected.



# Worship Ministries

## Advent Season

Advent season at UBC is always a fantastic time filled with beautiful music and powerful worship services. This year the UBC Choir and Orchestra presented *Glory*, a Christmas service filled with wonderful music while telling the story of how Christ came into the world and how he is working in everything around us. This year marked the 5th annual *Glory to the King* contemporary Christmas service with music provided by UBC's Contemporary Worship Band, and led by associate pastor of contemporary worship Ben Sandstrom. They were joined by the world renown Divisi Strings group, who assisted in making the service such a delight. With powerful music and captivating visuals, it was a memorable and worshipful experience for all who attended. The UBC Chamber Singers and Orchestra presented *Service of Lessons and Carols*, filling the worship center with holiday classics and the reading of scripture. This service is always a staple at UBC, and one that continues to celebrate our King and the truth in his word.

Christmas Eve was a full day of five services with opportunities to worship and celebrate with the entire family. Both the traditional and contemporary services were held that morning followed by two family-friendly Christmas Eve services in the afternoon and the annual 11 pm candlelight service. This year the 5:30 pm family-friendly service was the first ever bilingual Christmas service held at UBC. We celebrate diversity at UBC and this was one way that we engaged in that this Advent season. The entire day was saturated with singing and adoring Emmanuel, our God with us, together as a church family.

## Bilingual Christmas Eve

Join us in celebrating UBC's first bilingual Christmas Eve service this year! Members of our Spanish-speaking WBS group ("Vastago de Gracia" = Rod of Grace) helped translate the spoken word during the 5:30 pm family-friendly service and incorporated Spanish verses into popular Christmas songs. It is our goal as a church staff to offer opportunities for our Spanish-language members to engage with the greater English-speaking UBC church body, despite linguistic differences. We have already begun providing Spanish interpretation in the 11 am worship service this past year, but our Christmas Eve service was a way to engage the whole congregation in a multi-lingual service that celebrates the rich diversity of Clear Lake.



# Attendance Report

WORSHIP AVERAGES			
	9:30	11:00	Totals
Sept-Dec 2016	600	363	963
Sept-Dec 2017	574	354	928

ADULT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2016	788	338
Sept-Dec 2017	855	361

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2016	402	184
Sept-Dec 2017	406	185

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2016	318	162
Sept-Dec 2017	373	168

STUDENT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2016	340	142
Sept-Dec 2017	444	164

PRESCHOOL AVG.	SEPT-DEC 2017
Mission Friends	15
Fall Festival 2017	1,771
Happy Birthday Jesus Party	150+
Praise Kids	35
Praise Kids Christmas Concert	210
Right At Home Moms Ministry	17

CHILDREN'S AVG.	SEPT-DEC 2017
CM Handbells	33
CM Choir	56
CM Bible Blast/Drill	35
Royal Ambassadors (RA)	31
Girls in Action (GA)	30
RA Turkey Shoot	30
Christmas Concert	200+
GA Happy Birthday Jesus Party	150+

ADULT EVENT TOTALS	SEPT-DEC 2017
Senior Adult Bible Conference*	100
Women's Tapestry Dinner*	320+
College & Career Xmas Party*	40

STUDENT MINISTRY AVG.	SEPT-DEC 2017
Fall Retreat	134
IS Late Night	30

\*Event

# Financial Report

## University Baptist Church 12 Months October 2016 to September 2017 (100%)

	Revenue and Expenditures (a)	Actual (b)	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
General Contributions	\$3,425,177	\$3,425,177			
Budget Contributions	\$40,402				
Other Income	\$112,405	\$112,405			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,577,985</b>	<b>\$3,537,583</b>			
<b>Missions Ministry</b>	<b>\$342,518</b>	<b>\$342,518</b>	<b>\$365,000</b>	<b>\$22,482</b>	<b>93.84%</b>
Communications Ministry	\$86,763	\$86,763	\$104,000	\$17,237	83.43%
Serving Ministries	\$23,623	\$21,789	\$25,500	\$3,711	85.45%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$56,388	\$52,586	\$56,300	\$3,714	93.40%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$15,372	\$15,347	\$24,000	\$8,653	63.95%
Adult Ministry	\$52,472	\$50,905	\$82,500	\$31,595	61.70%
Student Ministry	\$70,445	\$56,770	\$52,000	-\$4,770	109.17%
Children Ministry	\$40,013	\$23,734	\$38,500	\$14,766	61.65%
Preschool Ministry	\$15,633	\$15,533	\$22,600	\$7,067	68.73%
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$703,228</b>	<b>\$665,946</b>	<b>\$770,400</b>	<b>\$104,454</b>	<b>86.44%</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$181,466</b>	<b>\$178,346</b>	<b>\$185,950</b>	<b>\$7,604</b>	<b>95.91%</b>
Personnel	\$2,088,220	\$2,088,220	\$2,202,000	\$113,780	94.83%
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$2,269,686</b>	<b>\$2,266,566</b>	<b>\$2,387,950</b>	<b>\$121,384</b>	<b>94.92%</b>
<b>Facility</b>	<b>\$482,572</b>	<b>\$482,572</b>	<b>\$491,650</b>	<b>\$9,078</b>	<b>98.15%</b>
Capital Improvements	\$77,020	\$77,020	\$0	(\$77,020)	
<b>Total Facility &amp; CP &amp; Funding</b>	<b>\$559,592</b>	<b>\$559,592</b>	<b>\$491,650</b>	<b>-\$67,942</b>	<b>113.82%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,532,506</b>	<b>\$3,492,104</b>	<b>\$3,650,000</b>	<b>\$157,896</b>	<b>95.67%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$45,479</b>	<b>\$45,479</b>			
	<b>Begin</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>End</b>		
Designated Funds (c)	\$512,843	\$904	\$513,748		
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$97,437	\$0	\$97,437		
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000		
Unrestricted Funds			\$96,373		
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>			<b>\$1,207,557</b>		
<b>Current Other Assets (d)</b>			<b>\$13,607</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			<b>\$96,373</b>		
<b>Mortgage</b>			<b>\$0</b>		

Mike Herman, Treasurer

### Footnotes:

- "Revenues and Expenditures" lists ministry specific budget contributions made through the year under Revenues and shows actual gross expenditures for each ministry area.
- "Actual" includes ministry specific contributions included in their respective ministry. These contributions off-set ministry area expenses. "Actual" column figures are used to compute "% of annual budget."
- Designated Funds "Activity" includes expenses for children area remodel
- Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable and a prepaid expense.

**University Baptist Church**  
**3 Months October 2017 to December 2017 (25%)**

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
Budgetary Contributions	\$1,073,809			
Ministry Contributions	\$5,753			
Other Income	<u>\$6,540</u>			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,086,102</b>			
Missions Ministry	\$107,381	\$365,000	\$257,619	29.42%
Communications Ministry	\$22,642	\$104,000	\$81,358	21.77%
Serving Ministries	\$2,160	\$27,850	\$25,690	7.76%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$9,402	\$52,800	\$43,398	17.81%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$11,381	\$23,150	\$11,769	49.16%
Adult Ministry	\$12,792	\$85,700	\$72,908	14.93%
Student Ministry	\$12,003	\$57,000	\$44,997	21.06%
Children Ministry	\$3,870	\$45,900	\$42,030	8.43%
Preschool Ministry	<u>\$3,181</u>	<u>\$23,600</u>	<u>\$20,420</u>	<u>13.48%</u>
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$184,811</b>	<b>\$785,000</b>	<b>\$600,189</b>	<b>23.54%</b>
Administration	\$52,014	\$191,000	\$138,986	27.23%
Personnel	<u>\$487,736</u>	<u>\$2,189,000</u>	<u>\$1,701,264</u>	<u>22.28%</u>
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$539,750</b>	<b>\$2,380,000</b>	<b>\$1,840,250</b>	<b>22.68%</b>
Facility	\$85,913	\$485,000	\$399,087	17.71%
Capital Improvements	<u>\$251</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$251)</u>	
<b>Total Facility &amp; CP &amp; Funding</b>	<b>\$86,164</b>	<b>\$485,000</b>	<b>\$398,836</b>	<b>17.77%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$810,725</b>	<b>\$3,650,000</b>	<b>\$2,839,275</b>	<b>22.21%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$275,377</b>			
	<b>Begin</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>End</b>	
Designated Funds	\$513,748	\$456,451	\$970,199	
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Unrestricted Funds			<u>\$379,140</u>	
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>			<b>\$1,849,339</b>	
Current Other Assets (a)			\$520	
Current Liabilities			\$97,674	
Mortgage			\$0	

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes:

a) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable and any prepaid expenses.

# Membership Report

## UBC Membership Additions

September–December 2017

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Moriah K. Bahnsen
- Madisen Bodie
- Jacob Carlson
- Jonathan Carlson
- David Holt
- Savanna Holt
- Sylvia Holt
- Karen M. LaRey
- Robert LaRey
- Crystal T. Ly
- Chris Pierson
- Megan Tanner
- Casey Wagner

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Adam Ross Blakey
- Amberly Garvin
- Marcus E. Garvin
- Samantha Garvin
- Rocky L. Gonzales
- Mark D. Hayman
- Reid Hayman
- Tamara E. Hayman
- Harry N. Harpole
- Sally B. Harpole
- C. E. Jones
- Reinaldo J. Morillo
- Tisha Morillo
- Hilary J. Morris
- Joaquina R. Perry
- Heather Pierson
- Rex L. Rivera
- Elizabeth L. Suffron
- Jeffrey C. Suffron
- Priya Vogel
- Robert M. Vogel
- Sara Vogel
- Sujata Vogel

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Ryan Anderson
- Jennifer S. Barnes
- Chris Columbus
- David Wm. Green II
- Loretta Holt
- Joshua H. Morris
- Barbara Phillips
- Elizabeth Raska
- Steve Raska
- Priscilla A. Ritz
- Dave Thompson
- Joel Thompson
- Rachel E. Thompson
- Samuel Thompson
- Carson Wagner
- Emily Wagner
- Jackson Wagner
- Nathan Wagner

## UBC Membership Deletions

September–December 2017

### By Letter

- Jonie Cockrell
- Mary Gibbs
- Mike Gibbs
- Barbara O'Neill
- Patrick O'Neill
- Robert (Bob) Johnson
- Wanda Johnson

### By Erasure

- Ron Moran

### By Death

- Wes Brenton
- Lyla Nettles
- Jack Vandervort



# Administrative Report

## Focus Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2017

The Focus Meeting was held in the Great Room at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2017. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 53 people in attendance.

Harvey Relief Updates are on pages 4 and 5 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Serving Ministries Report is on pages 6 - 8 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Care Ministries Report is on pages 9 - 10 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Adult Ministries Report is on page 10 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Primetime Ministries Report is on page 11 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Women's Ministries Report is on page 11 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 12 - 14 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 15 - 19 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on pages 20 - 24 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on pages 25 - 26 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 27 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2017.

The Attendance Report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship are found on page 28 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The Financial Report is on page 29 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

A full report of the membership changes during the period May - August, 2017 is on page 30 of the Book of Reports dated September 27, 2017. During that period, 12 were received by baptism; 0 by letter; and 10 by statement.

### Requests for letters

- Anthony Blankenship
- Kathleen Blankenship
- Rylan Chapman
- Jessica Jafari-Rouhani
- Ramien Jafari-Rouhani

### By Erasure

- None

### By Death

- John S. (Stan) Moore

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Kirk Heuser and a second by Jim Tatum. 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 Patrick Turley.

The minutes of the June 4, 2017 Focus Meeting is on pages 31 - 32 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion by Richard Simmons and a second by David Henry.

The Personnel Updates Report is on page 32 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

The UBC Foundation Report is on page 33 of the Book of Reports dated September 24, 2017.

*Focus Meeting Minutes cont.*

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget was presented by a recommendation by the Executive Council. A second motion was given by Todd Hamilton. The budget was approved by voice vote. A detailed budget line item was handed out during the Focus Meeting in case anyone should have questions.

The Nominating Committee recommendations for the following members to serve three year positions beginning in 2018 are as follows:

Trustee - Brian Mayeaux

Katy Ernst

Executive Council - Brynda McCormick

Cory Thompson

Nominating Committee - David Henry

Deacon Nominating Committee - Cynthia Bernal

Since this is a recommendation from the Nominating Committee a motion is not needed but a second by Jill Tatum was given. These recommendations were approved by a show of hands vote.

The Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas is being held in Waco on November 12 - 14, 2017. Randy and Donna Cox, Steve Laufer, and Garet Robinson have requested that University Baptist Church approve them as messengers from UBC to the Annual Meeting. A motion was given by Dan Devries and a second by Todd Hamilton. This motion was approved by voice vote.

Dr. Laufer asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was given by Laura Vincent and a second by Cory Thompson.

Dr. Laufer closed the meeting with a prayer.

Virginia Thomas

Church Secretary

# UBC Foundation Report

## FINANCIALS -

For year-end 2017, the Foundation's overall investment account increased by 14.5%. The bond fund was up 6.4% with the stock fund up 19.3%.

The investment account value on 1/1/17 was \$173,997 and value on 12/31/17 was \$199,260 for a gain of \$25,263.

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES -

The UBCF Golf Tournament was held on November 13, 2017 including 18 teams with 73 individuals participating. The Tournament raised approximately \$9,100 with more additional funds still outstanding.

There were 22 hole sponsors and 10 door prizes donated. In addition, Norman Frede Chevrolet offered a new car for a hole-in-one at one hole, while Marine Max offered a new boat at another. Unfortunately, there were no winners but fun was had by all players at the attempts.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS -

In May, four Student Scholarships were given for a total of \$6,800 to Simon Holmes, Rachael Doerksen, Lauren Floyd, and Alan Mather.

## MINISTRIES SUPPORTED -

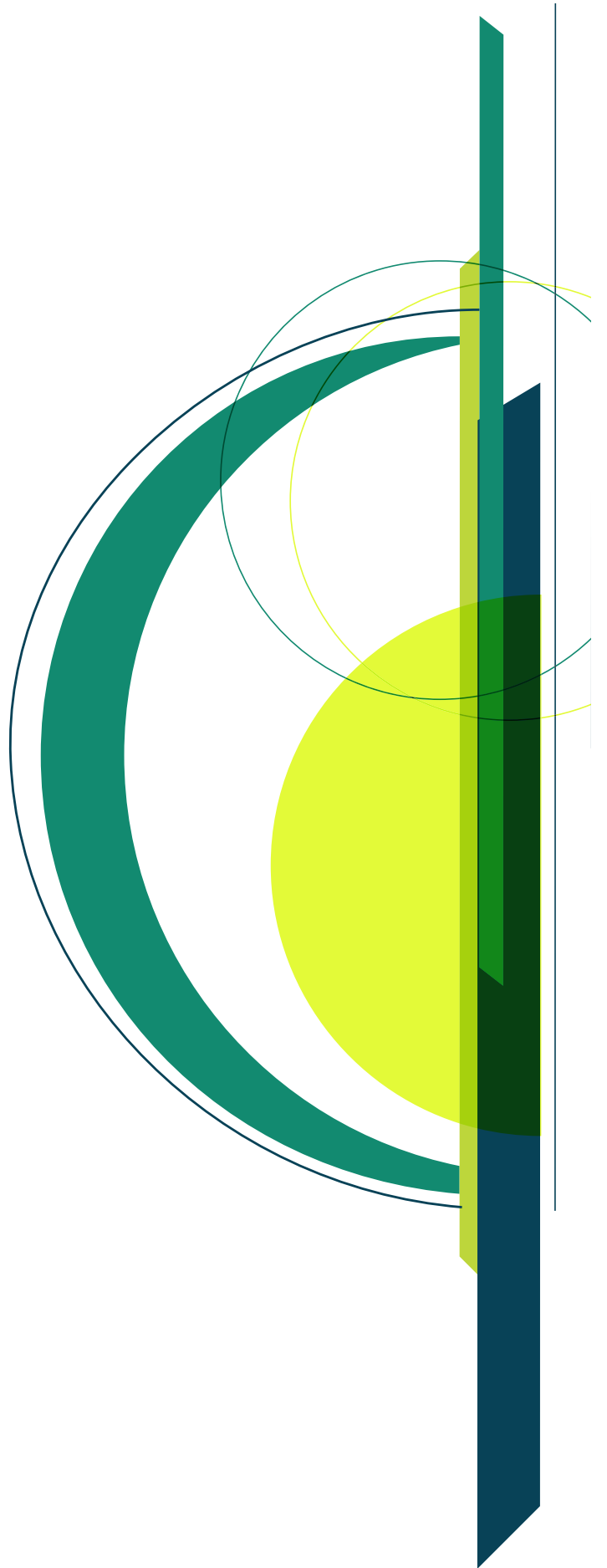
1. WOW (Worship on Wheels), the Philippines mission led by Troy Beaver, was granted \$7,500 for two needs: one year funding of a driver who will perform general maintenance, vehicle repairs, and cooking; and one year funding of a ministry assistant/teacher.

2. House LA (Los Angeles church plant) led by Pastor Louis Kang received \$2,400 for one year funding for one intern.

The UBCF Board requested that both these ministries give a quarterly update on the progress of the missions and results achieved through the use of these grants.

3. The Leadership Academy led by Brady Pyle was granted \$2,000 to help with costs of luncheons and other administrative costs. Brady and two students involved in the program gave a presentation describing how funds were used and the success of the program at the UBCF July Board meeting.

visit us at [ubc.org](http://ubc.org)



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