

FOCUS MEETING
Sunday, Sept 30
7pm, The Chapel

FOCUS!

MAY-AUG 2018

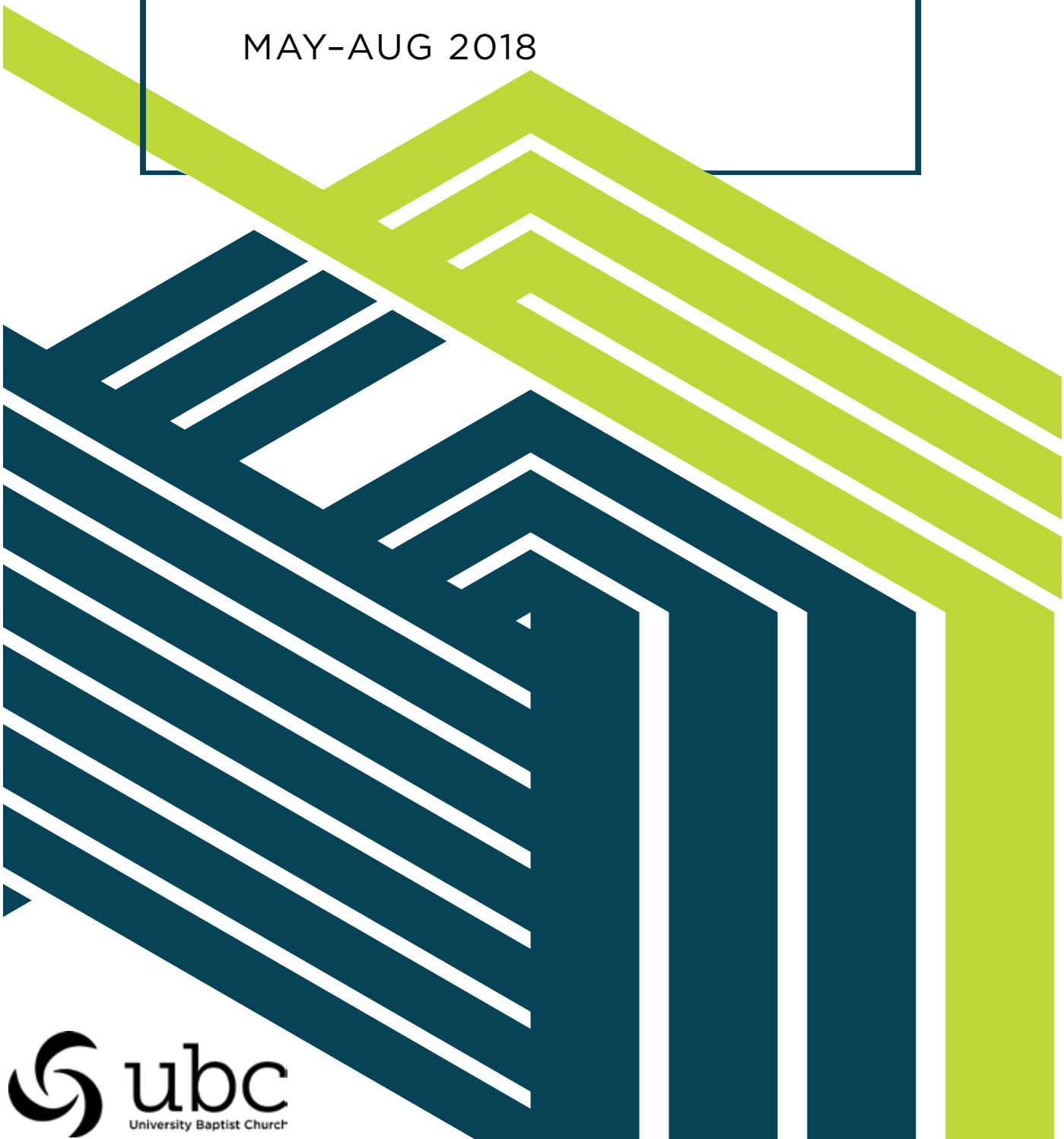


Table of Contents

Focus Meeting — Sunday, September 30, 2018

Senior Pastor’s Report.....	4
Executive Director’s Report	5
UBC Ministries.....	6
• Facilities Update.....	6
• Serving Ministries.....	7
• Faith@Home	16
• Care Ministries.....	17
• Adult Ministries	18
• Men’s Ministries.....	19
• Women’s Ministries.....	19
• Student Ministries	22
• Children’s Ministries	29
• Preschool Ministries	36
• Weekday Ministries	44
• Worship Ministries	46
Attendance Report	47
Financial Report.....	48
Membership Report.....	49
Administrative Report	50
• Minutes of Previous Focus Meeting	50
• Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.....	52
• UBC Foundation Reports.....	53
• Nominating Committee Report.....	58

Senior Pastor

The world of Baptist cooperative agencies can be a complicated one, especially for those who have never taken time to consider them. Almost every year, two of the national agencies find themselves in the headlines for some decision or move that generates controversy and debate. But apart from those moments, Baptist agencies at the local, state, and global levels, more often than not, fly under the radar.

This is a somewhat sad development to me because the cooperative spirit of Baptist churches has traditionally been one of our denomination's strongest qualities. Early on in American Baptist history, this recognition was a major calling card of Baptists: that we can accomplish more in our work for God's Kingdom when we share our resources and partner together than any one of our churches can alone.

At UBC, we continue to work cooperatively with Baptist churches close to home and around the world. In the greater Houston area, we are strong partners with the Union Baptist Association, an organization with more than 560 churches. You can learn more about our association at ubahouston.org. In the state of Texas, we partner with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (texasbaptists.org), and nationally we partner with two organizations, the Southern Baptist Convention (sbc.org) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (cbf.net). Each of these entities represents a unique group of Baptist families of faith seeking to wrestle with issues of our day and to promote mission work around our state, country, and world. They are all diverse, just as we in our church are diverse. And they all promote the gospel of Jesus Christ, the autonomy of local Baptist churches, and the missionary mandate to go and proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth.

This summer, I received an invitation to attend the annual meeting of the global equivalent of these Baptist cooperative agencies, the Baptist World Alliance (bwanet.org). UBC has long been a church with a global heart, global partnerships, a local multicultural makeup, and a sensitivity to the gospel of Jesus manifesting itself in culturally nuanced ways around the world. I was intrigued to learn more about this organization that brings together Baptist leaders and church members from approximately 125 countries and territories, made up of over 160,000 churches that contain almost 48 million Baptists.

The Baptist World Alliance, as I learned at this conference, helps Baptist churches around the world share resources and work in five key areas of ministry: promoting worship, fellowship, and unity; leading in mission and evangelism; responding to people in need; defending human rights and justice; and advancing relevant theological reflection. If you compare that list of initiatives with UBC's areas of local and global service, I think you will find a lot of overlap: promoting worship and fellowship by building worship centers for Navajo churches; responding to people in need by local mentoring, drilling wells in Central America, and other initiatives; and advancing theological reflection by offering training for church leaders and teachers in the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Thailand, and the Philippines, just to name a few. I was greatly encouraged, and hope that you will be too, at the prospects of getting to know better and work with more closely our brothers and sisters in churches around the world.

Every five years, BWA holds a global Congress, where Christians and church members from all over the world join together for worship, missions, fellowship, and celebration. From July 22-26, 2020 this event will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I am planning to attend and hope to experience this event with a number of members of our UBC family. If you have any interest in learning more about BWA, or any of our partner organizations, I would encourage you to read up on them using the links in this article. You might even sign up for the BWA newsletters or general news feed to stay abreast of what member churches are doing here in Texas and every corner of the world where Christ's name is exalted.

Steven Laufer
SENIOR PASTOR

As I write this, I'm sitting at Makiling Conference Center in the Philippines. A group of six UBC'ers is here working with pastors and children workers from six village churches. Worship on Wheels (WOW), a UBC ministry conceived and operated by our own Troy and Thai Beaver, have held VBS-style events at each of their locations.

When working with the pastor breakout sessions, each one talks about the significant increase in children's attendance after WOW's visit. So significant of an event that they traveled 10 to 12 hours by boat, bus, and jeepney with their children's workers to attend the conference. The conference is underwritten by the UBC mission funds, individuals sponsoring ministry kits and sound equipment, and the team members' contributions.

Two things strike me here. The first is the Kingdom results of one couple with a vision and the audacity to step into it. Early retirement from the fire department for Troy, married to a native Filipino Thai, who has a heart for her people, adds up to a mighty weapon in God's hand. Secondly, that God, in his infinite wisdom, immerses them into a group of people gathering at a place called UBC, who are Becoming a Family of Christ Followers. WOW is now sponsored, encouraged, and supported in such a way that they are Connecting People to God's Kingdom. A great picture of God's economy.



And this is just one of many stories of God's people having Kingdom impact through their obedience to their calling. As you read the Focus reports, enjoy the God stories behind each report, article, and picture. They weave a beautiful mosaic.

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Facilities Update

Thank You!

Thank you Dumont Shpata Atelier for helping us finish the Pavilion! A beautiful gift that the community will enjoy for many years to come.

- Facebook post from Latinos de UBC



Serving Ministries

Living Water International

What does the Living Water trip look like? A day in the life.

JULY 6

Hey all, we're getting set to leave for Guatemala bright and early mañana!

Pray for us as we travel to Nueva Concepcion to bring Water and the Word to a community that lacks clean water.

Pray for the community we go to serve, for relationships to develop, and for Jesus to be lifted up by us and the local church. #ubcLWI

JULY 8

Where in the world is #ubcLWI? Aqui!!

Great morning worshipping at Iglesia del Camino!
How we respond when God tells us YES or NO shows what we believe about Him! #ubcLWI

JULY 9

Great day! It's amazing how much water you need in order to drill for water, but God provided!
Started making new friends in Caserio Central Americo La Danta. #ubcLWI

JULY 10

Yesterday was a good day. We all managed to fight off heat exhaustion and drilled our pilot or exploratory hole to 220'.

Today we will expand to a 7" hole and drill to about 160'. If all goes WELL, we'll put in the screen and casing before we leave tonight. The well will get pretty much set.

Pray for continued safety and health and opportunities to get to know our hosts.

Blanca, our hygiene lead, told us that this is the 2 weeks between the dry and wet season. It's called Canicula and it's the hottest time of the year...



JULY 10 (continued)

Based off of the soil samples from drilling yesterday, we know how deep and where to set the pump.

Water is a problem again today. We need more to drill, and our pump can't catch prime from the pastor's well. #ubcLWI

Amberle and Kate are hard at work teaching families about safe hygiene. #ubcLWI
#ubcStudentMinistries

Mandy Upton Loeffler just got covered in mud when Stephen Eugene Gardner broke the pipe before she could bypass the mud.

Mandy says she hadn't given the ok, but Stephen claims otherwise. It's a case of she said Stephen said. If you know these people you can imagine the comedy.



JULY 11

Our students worked very hard to teach, share, and love on the kids this week. Very proud of them!
#ubcLWI

Just finished our nightly game of chicken foot. I've loved getting to know these people. Once strangers, they've become great friends! #ubcLWI

JULY 12

Sunrise in Guatemala! Preparing to worship the Lord this morning. #ubcLWI

Finished! The pump is installed, and we celebrated with our new friends. What a great, hard, sweaty week!

We grabbed a quick photo op with the pastor and his wife with the team at the dedication ceremony.

We're heading back to Antigua for a day of rest before returning home.

God is so good! Thanks to all who prayed for us this week. #ubcLWI



JULY 15

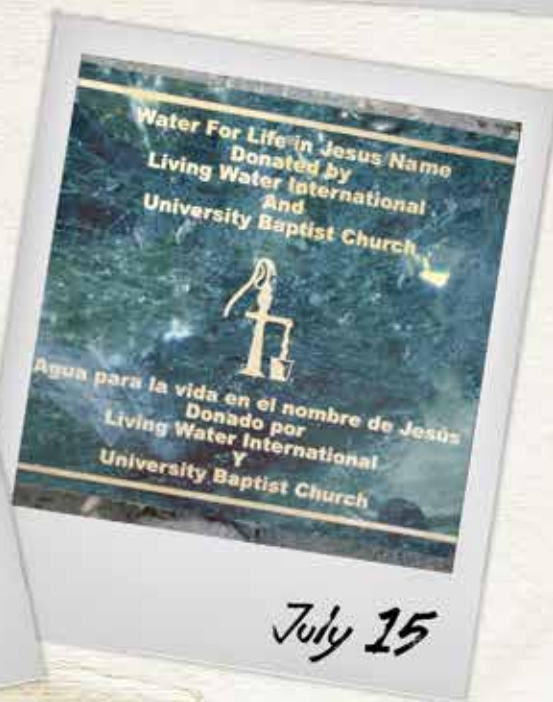
We made it back yesterday. What a great week working alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ!

We drilled to 210' and set our casing that deep as well. Everyone stayed healthy all week too!

Thanks for your prayers and support! Next year we are scheduled to drill in Rivas, Nicaragua.

There's a lot of unrest there right now and Living Water has actually cancelled the trips for the next several months. We'll have to see.

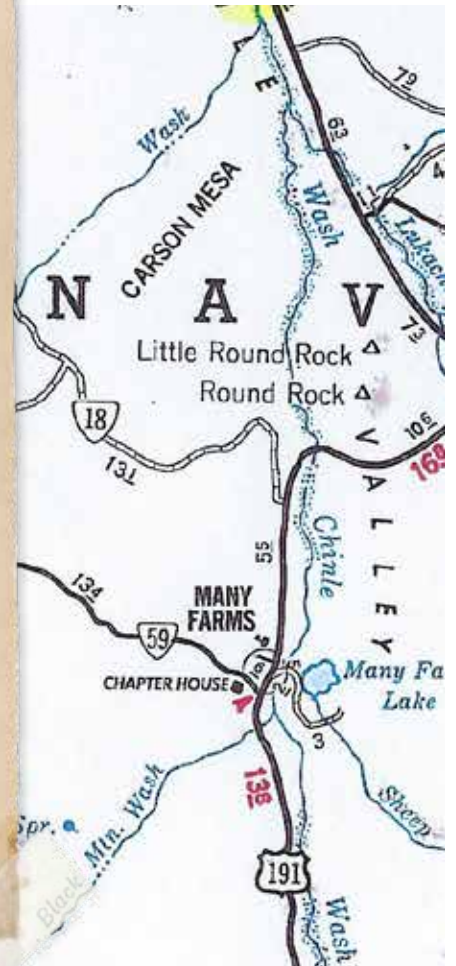
Thanks again!



Navajo

Blessings far outweighed Challenges.

1. Billy found a fan belt at an auto supply in Fairfield on a Sunday morning for an International commercial truck. That's a God thing!
2. When the truck failed to start, Billy was able to find a bad electrical connection with some coaching from Jared Henderson back home and was able to make a temporary fix that held up for the trip.
3. No injuries on the team.
4. Everyone on the team worked hard, got along well, tolerated me and finished the task on time.
5. 69 team members from 14 to 88 years old, and from 5 different churches participated in this great project to honor and glorify our Savior in an outstanding fashion. May we praise the Lord for the successful endeavor.
6. A plaque was placed in the gable above the baptistry honoring Betty Sweitzer who started the VBS ministry in 1992. Betty faithfully supported the Navajo work until she graduated to Heaven. We are all honored to have known her.



Challenges came in various forms this year. Here are a few of them.

1. The serpentine fan belt broke on the mission truck on the way out. That truck has less than 30,000 miles on it. Belts should last more than 100k.
2. A truck failed to start after a fuel stop.
3. I was stopped once for excessive speed! (Just a warning.)
4. Two blow outs going out and three coming home. Only had one last year.
5. Gusting winds were 20-30 mph from SW and relentless for the whole trip.
6. One near F-1 devil twister came through camp knocking down ladders, pummeling people and destroying one VBS tent.
7. Huge dust storm on the way home around Amarillo.



Thank you again for your participation in this year's Navajo trip as a prayer, goer, giver, sponsor or perhaps all four. Our trip to Pinon, AZ (45 miles west of Chinle) was a resounding success! We enjoyed a mile-high view of the prairie and downtown Pinon plus nice clear days of 90 degrees and cool nights of 40 degrees. It was the first time in three decades that we didn't have to work in temperatures over 100 degrees each day. It was a blessing indeed! It truly takes the whole church family to have a hand in the success of these trips and I greatly appreciate your help. Pastor Joel and Fabiola Haynes are very grateful for UBC's gift of a new building for Strong Hold Baptist Church as are the people of Pinon.

This year's trip was blessed in so many ways. We had 12 Rookies this year which helped compensate for a few missing Journeymen. The team fell behind schedule about five hours early on but worked vigorously to make up lost time and finished on time. That allowed for our team to enjoy our Thursday vacation day. The dedication service was held that night as usual. We had great testimonies, great singing and TWO great sermons. All of which led to four decisions for Christ and several rededications. On top of that, the congregation served up a great meal with plenty of freshly-made Navajo Fry Bread!

Billy had a great construction crew this year that had plenty of rookies for him to teach new skills to.

Collette and Gilda had a well-staffed VBS this year and presented "Jesus the one and only" to more than 60 children. Dr. Garet Robinson helped with the presentation and was a real hit with the children.

Brenda Noll, Carol Lizana and John Lilly led an adult Bible study. Both men and women attended this year and learned a lot about Jesus by doing crafts and having great discussions over their Bibles.

Dave Ward's sports camp went well again this year even though attendance was down a bit. It was an all-girl camp that had 8 very enthusiastic teenagers in attendance; three of the girls were present for the dedication.

Karol's cook team had four rookies and did an outstanding job as usual with Carts Cajun Chicken Spaghetti being a very big hit! He also served up a world-class pulled pork meal.

Strong Hold Baptist Church 2018
Pinon, AZ



The House LA

Lora Doremus, director of women's ministries, shares stories from her thought-provoking trip to LA in partnership with The House LA church. Read excerpts below and go to ubc.org/ubc-life to read all the stories.



WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday, we visited the Union Rescue Mission (URM) in downtown LA. This huge mission has been in operation since 1891. In the beginning, they utilized a "Gospel Wagon" to ride around picking up any who were willing to receive help. Some think that this is the origin of the phrase "I fell off the wagon." Today URM sleeps over 1,000 people per night. The need has gotten much worse lately because of skyrocketing rents. At the moment, they are hosting ten single fathers with children, 90 mothers, and over 220 children.



URM serves meals 12 times per day. Starbucks provides every item they offer for breakfast every single day. The mission provides haircuts, free dental services, spiritual and job coaching, classes, health and hygiene care. One man who graduated from the program, healthy, whole and ready for work but he never smiled. His countenance seemed so low and serious. But since URM has learned that the last door to openness is often someone's smile, they gave this man free dentures.

“

He now smiles broadly to everyone. He seems like a completely new person.

”

THURSDAY

Today we took a tour at Homeboy Industries, founded by Jesuit priest Father Gregory Boyle. Homeboy Industries is a gang-intervention program located in Boyle Heights (no connection), the gang capital of the world. It is a self-sustaining business, bakery, cafe and job source. Look on Netflix for a wonderful documentary about Father Greg called "G-Dog."

SATURDAY

The word got out that we were going to be doing a clean-up around the church today. A Korean Youth organization provided the tools and bags, and the city sent a representative from the sanitation department. We had to be trained because the trash in the streets around there includes syringes, human waste and other forms of biohazards. The young people that participated were amazing hard workers. A grad student from USC showed up to interview us about our thoughts on "Zero Waste" culture. She interviewed me, and I had to confess that I'm from Texas and we definitely lag behind California in stuff like that. I had never even heard the term "zero waste" before.

She was amused by me. I kept talking about the people, and she kept patiently steering me back to her subject. I'm going to end up on the editing room floor.



At the moment, they are hosting ten single fathers with children, 90 mothers, and over 220 children.



Every evening our team has tried to meet under the trees at the place where we're staying (William Cary International University). We download the day and try to think about what to do with all that we're learning. Louis and Anna said a lot about how our mere presence here is such an encouragement to them.

The fact that we cared enough to come out here and join them, see their work, pray with them and help for a few days meant the world to them. I am not the same person I was when I arrived. I remember all the stories: Alex, Robert, Michael, LaPaul, Levi...

The Scouting Corner

Pete Reeder, Scouting Coordinator for UBC

UBC sponsors three Scouting Units that are part of the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scouts (Pack 957 for Boys and Girls Grades K to 5th Grade) Boy Scouts (Troop 870 for boys Ages 11 to 18) Sea Scouts (Ship 1836 for boys and girls ages 14-21).

Citizenship Training, Character Building, and Personal Fitness are the objectives of Scouting at all levels. The Scout Oath begins with "On my honor I will do my duty to God and my Country..."


Since January our Scout Units have been very active. Collectively they have provided over 300 hours of service to our local communities.





Dominican Republic Family Mission Trip

July 3-11, 2018



“How can a mission team give value to a child who has been traumatized and placed in an orphanage? We can love. We can get on their level and make eye contact. We can listen. We can hug. We can sing and play and laugh with them. We can admire and affirm their “wins” in games or crafts. By faith, we can plant seeds of love, and trust God to germinate in each heart. We may never see the results, but sometimes God gives us a glimpse of His work.”

-Joanna Berry, Vice President of Family and International Ministries, STCH Ministries

Several years ago, some UBC members had an idea: to have UBC partner with STCH Ministries for a Family Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Through God-orchestrated events, the first trip happened in 2014. This summer marked our fifth year of visiting the DR for our family mission trip.

With each trip, UBC and our VBS kids & families come together to fund projects to help the children in the DR. The kids in Children’s Ministry will tell you that they are a part of everything that is done in the DR. Whether they go on the trip or not, they are invested and care about helping the children at the orphanage.

This year’s trip started in the city of Santiago where the team spent three days at the Mercy Network Orphanage. Our theme for the week was being a new creation in Christ. This theme was taught to the children by explaining how a caterpillar is transformed into a beautiful butterfly. We had a great time showing the children the love of Christ through playtime, recreational games, crafts, and nightly parties. In addition to spending time with the children, we built two playhouses: a workshop complete with toy hammers, saws, and measuring tapes; and a kitchen with plastic fruits, vegetables, pots and dishes. Out on the recreation field, we painted a mural with a big colorful butterfly and the verse “De modo que sit alguno esta en Cristo, nueva criatura es...” 2 Cor. 5:17.

Lastly, we had the opportunity to provide training to the orphanage caregivers. We gave them practical strategies to interact with children who have experienced trauma and help them feel safe.

We showed the caregivers how valuable they are in the lives of the children and how precious they are in the eyes of God.

After our time at the orphanage, we traveled to Santo Domingo and had a beautiful day taking UBC Samuel’s Fund Children to the aquarium. This outing, as well as those in past years, gives us the opportunity to build lasting relationships with the children who are sponsored by UBC families.



Whether we are working with the children at the orphanage, teaching caregivers, or taking children on an outing, our goal is for everyone to know they are loved and valuable. We are blessed to be a part of the work that God is doing in the Dominican Republic.

Please consider joining us on the 6th annual DR Family Mission Trip, July 2-10, 2019!



Walden Gardens

Thank you to everyone who responded and those who were willing to jump in and help on Thursday if needed!

In 90 minutes we cleared the tree and the Lott family graciously donated more than half of the harvest to the Clear Lake Food Pantry, a delicious treat for their clients.

This was a great testimony to what the fruit share we've advertised before could look like. So many fruit trees in the area are full to bursting when in season and so much fruit falls to the ground going to waste. If you're in the area and you or someone you know has a fruit tree(s) with extra fruit we encourage you to consider donating the surplus to your local food pantry. If you need help harvesting, we'd love to help!



Faith@Home

Faith@Home Marriage Forum

Faith@Home Marriage Team hosted a marriage panel on May 2 as a continuation of their “The Grass is Greener Where You Water It” theme. The panel, Michelle & Will Tanner and Jeff & Cathy Wynn, reflected together about “Finding Time When There is None,” sharing thoughts and ideas related to how they intentionally find time in their busy schedules to spend with each other to make their marriage stronger.

Faith@Home Couples Top Golf Event

On Friday, June 22, 14 couples met at Topgolf for an evening of FUN! There were couples of all ages! What a fun evening of fellowship and finding out who the REAL golfers are! The couples enjoyed meeting new couples, reconnecting with couples, and hanging out visiting! It is so important to have other couples to live life with.

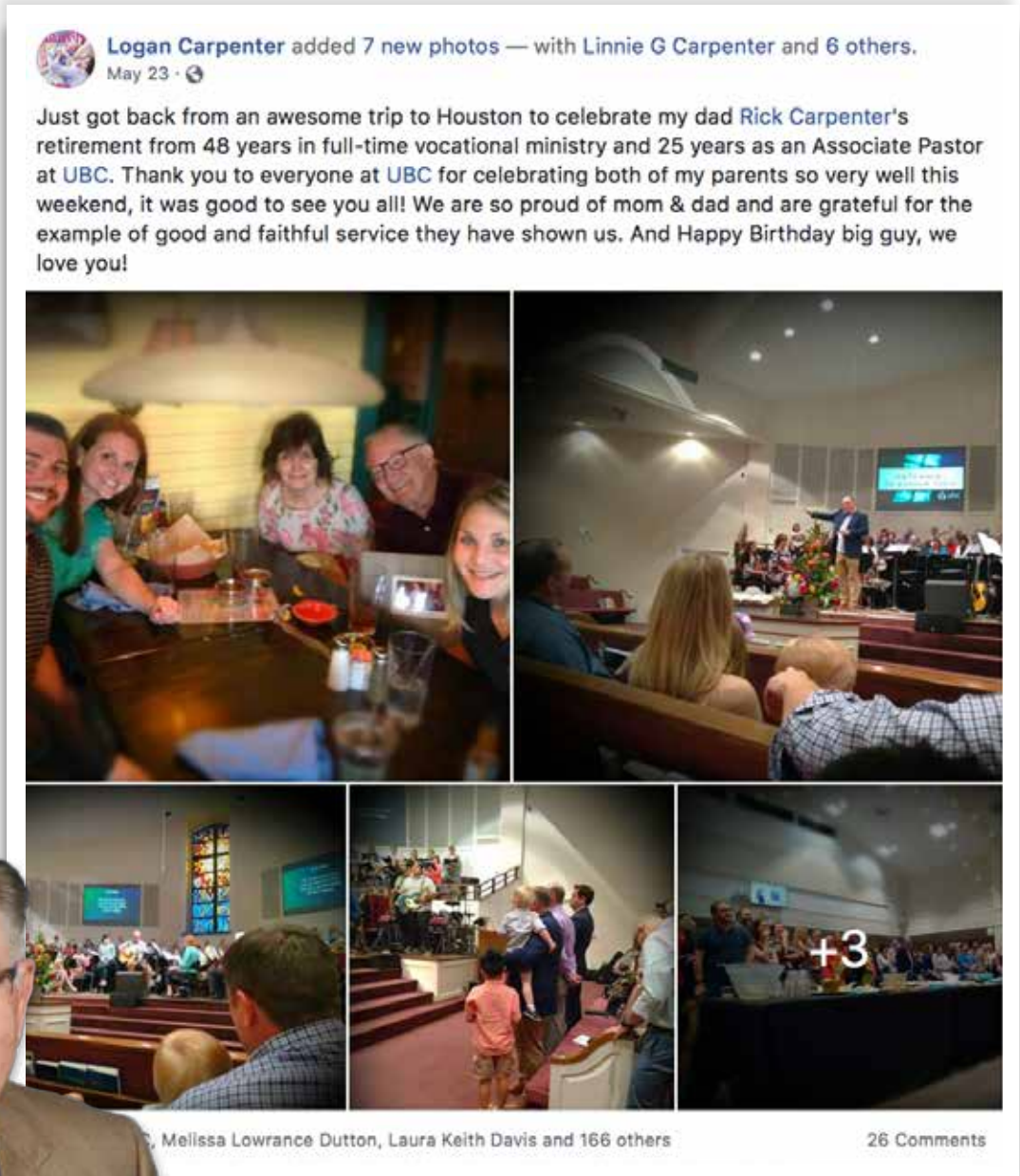


Care Ministries

Rick's Retirement, May 31

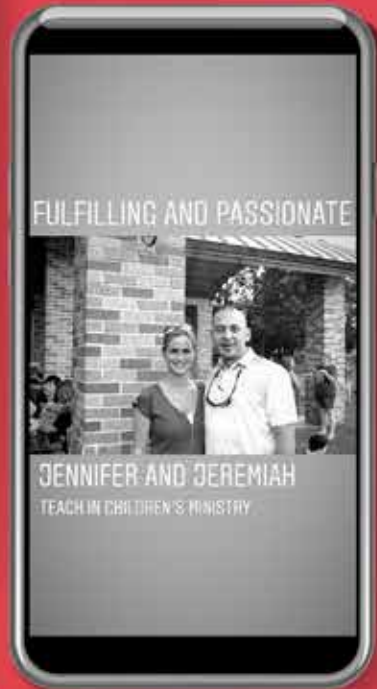
Rick Carpenter was the first full-time Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care at UBC and has helped us grow a culture of care and ministry to one another that has become a strong identifier of who we are. Working with deacons, he helped us develop ministry teams that target unmet pastoral needs in our church and community. Rick led more than 70 Nearly-wed, Newly-wed groups, helping couples prepare for marriage. In addition, he conducted more than 130 weddings, led and assisted many funerals and memorial services, and took a strategic role in designing, writing, and presenting facets of worship, including introductions, prayers, congregational readings, and an occasional sermon.

But that's not all. For while Rick was with us for 25 years, he has been in ministry for more than 48 years (46 in the local church). We give thanks to God for the time that Rick and Kay have been a part of UBC, and we look forward to whatever time and ways they will continue to serve with us. We celebrated!



Logan Carpenter, Rick's son, shared this on Facebook about the weekend celebrating Rick and his years of ministry.

Adult Ministries



Leadership Appreciation Dinner

It takes hundreds of volunteers to help us accomplish our weekly ministry at UBC. Every week, many of our members and leaders help our family ministries from preschool through Primetimers in so many different ways. To celebrate, and by way of thanking them, we held a Leadership Appreciation Dinner on Friday, August 10. We met at Bay Oaks Country Club and enjoyed a wonderful meal and encouragement. Pastor Ryan Rush of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy brought the keynote address that challenged everyone in the room to consider our commitments and to think about how we use our time. More than 170 of our volunteers participated in this great event.

Men's Ministries

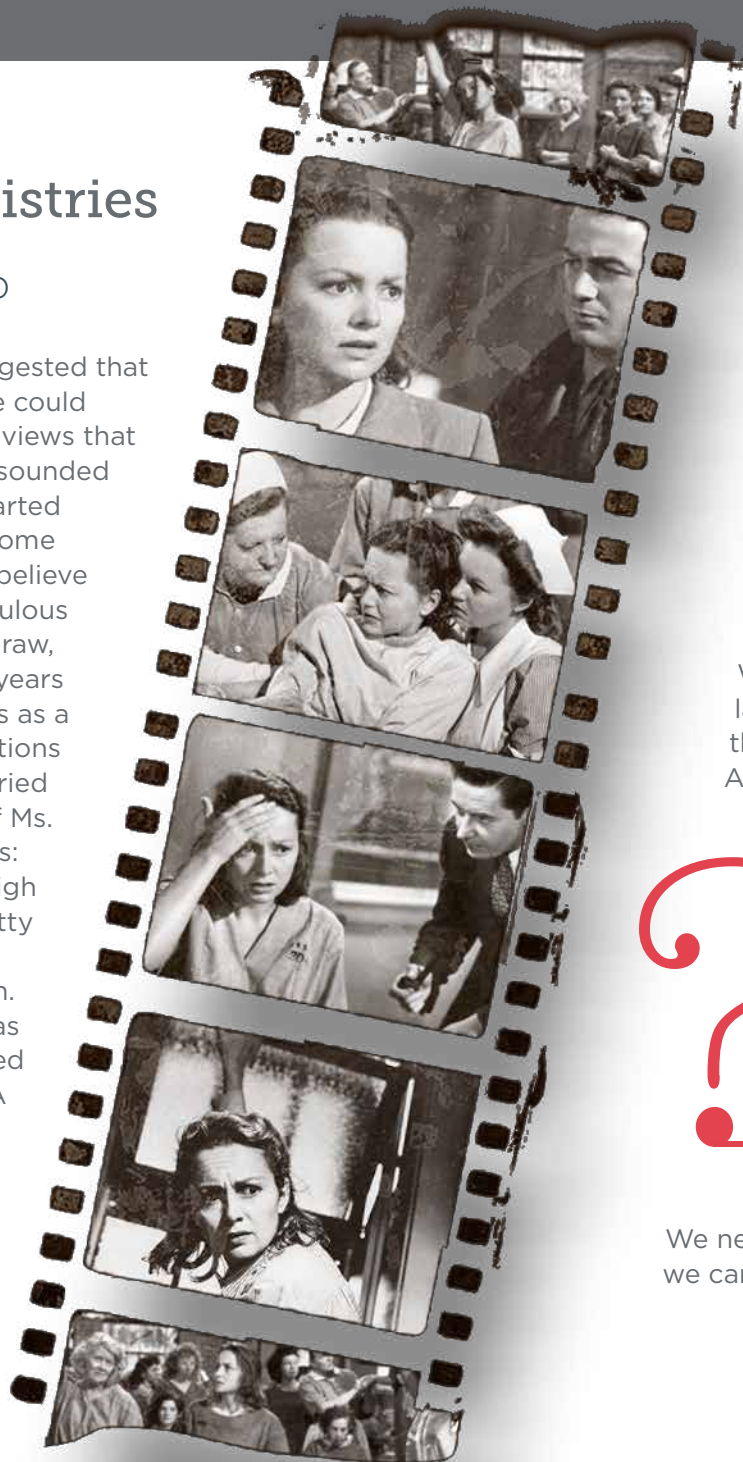
Top Golf

Helping men find time to gather and enjoy time together over common interests is a great way to get to know others and grow in our community. On Saturday May 12, we held an outing at TopGolf in Webster to do just that. About 25 men showed up and played some golfing games while also enjoying breakfast lunches. Several new faces were welcomed by our leadership team and regulars. Our next men's event is our Saturday morning breakfast, which will be held on October 6th.

Women's Ministries

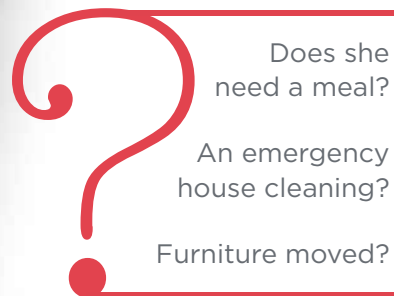
Summer Movie Club

Last summer, someone suggested that we start a movie club so we could discuss the variety of worldviews that are expressed in movies. It sounded like a great idea until we started trying to pick movies and come up with viewer guides! We believe the Lord guided us to a fabulous woman named Onalee McGraw, who has spent the past 25 years writing movie viewer guides as a way to start deep conversations among young people. We tried it this summer using four of Ms. McGraw's suggested movies: A Letter to Three Sisters, High Noon, The Snake Pit and Kitty Foyle. The conversations afterward were so much fun. The Summer Movie Club was so enjoyable that we decided to continue it into the fall. A huge thanks to David and Laurie Gordon for the use of their home theater, and to everyone who brought popcorn and snacks!



Assist A Sister

Sometimes we just need a helping hand. Women's Ministries launched a new idea this summer called Assist A Sister.



Does she need a meal?

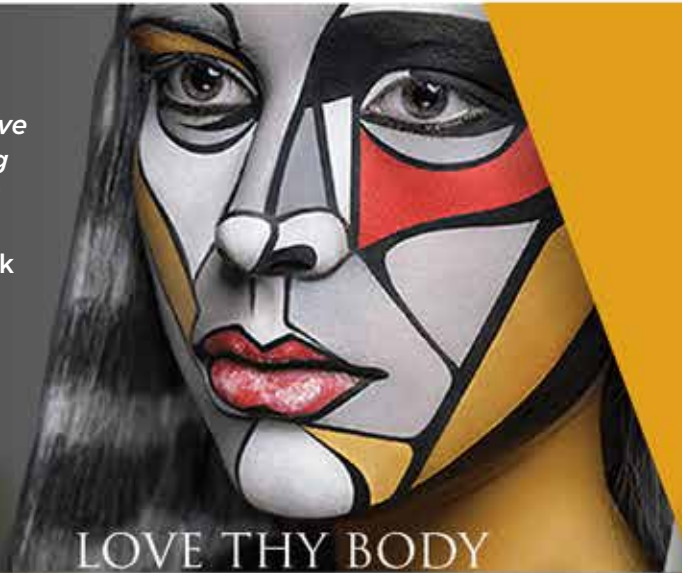
An emergency house cleaning?

Furniture moved?

We need each other, and we can help!

Summer Book Club

Several groups met together this summer to read *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality* by Nancy Pearcey. This book explores the mind/body dualism philosophy that undergirds many sexual and social issues. Several women remarked that their entire view about these subjects has widened and changed.



The biggest takeaway is that Christians need to be loving listeners, able to understand the history of ideas – where they came from and where they are headed. The five issues covered in the book are abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, transgenderism and the hook-up culture. Two new groups have started this month (August).

Summer Lecture Series

The women enjoyed a lecture almost every week this summer including:

- Helping People Deal with Doubt by Lora Doremus
- Praying in Color and Bible Journaling by Julie Ranna
- Growing and Changing by Charlene Wolfe
- Anxiety by Charlene Wolfe
- Devotion and Meal Planning by Holly Sincox
- How to Have a Great Conversation with an Atheist by Lora Doremus

Charlene's lectures are stored on YouTube. For the link, please email lora.doremus@ubc.org



Illumination Arts

Our mission is to bring together visual artists and art lovers for the purpose of forming an artists community where we can fellowship, grow spiritually, artistically, and personally while honoring Christ through art.

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Matt 5:16

Student Ministries

Beach Retreat

High School Beach Retreat offered exactly what was advertised. A retreat from social media, from responsibilities, and from demands. Students were able to step away from the pressures of school and social lives for a few days and be kids! I saw students playing on the beach, resting in hammocks, listening to music and having sing-alongs, and bless them – talking face to face!! I saw students in our house connecting with and getting to know other students who do not usually run in their social circles.

It was an eye-opening experience for me as a leader to allow students to disconnect and be in a place designed specifically for having fun and resting. The best way I can describe it is to say that I felt something was removed and I was able to see these teens without a filter, and it was a beautiful thing! The theme of rest runs throughout the Bible. God made a day of rest holy! (Gen 2:3) Psalm 127:2 says “...God gives rest to his loved ones.” Rest allows these teens to be their best selves. During Bible study time each day, the teens were more engaged and vulnerable in a positive way. They were honest about their struggles and by being honest, they allowed leaders to see how to invest in their lives in the most meaningful ways. It also allowed bonds to form between the teens as they understood that they were not alone in their struggles.

I am thankful for Beach Retreat as a parent of a teen and as a leader. Rest and retreat are needed – for all of us. This weekend not only offered that, but it was time for teaching the skill of resting as well. What a blessing!

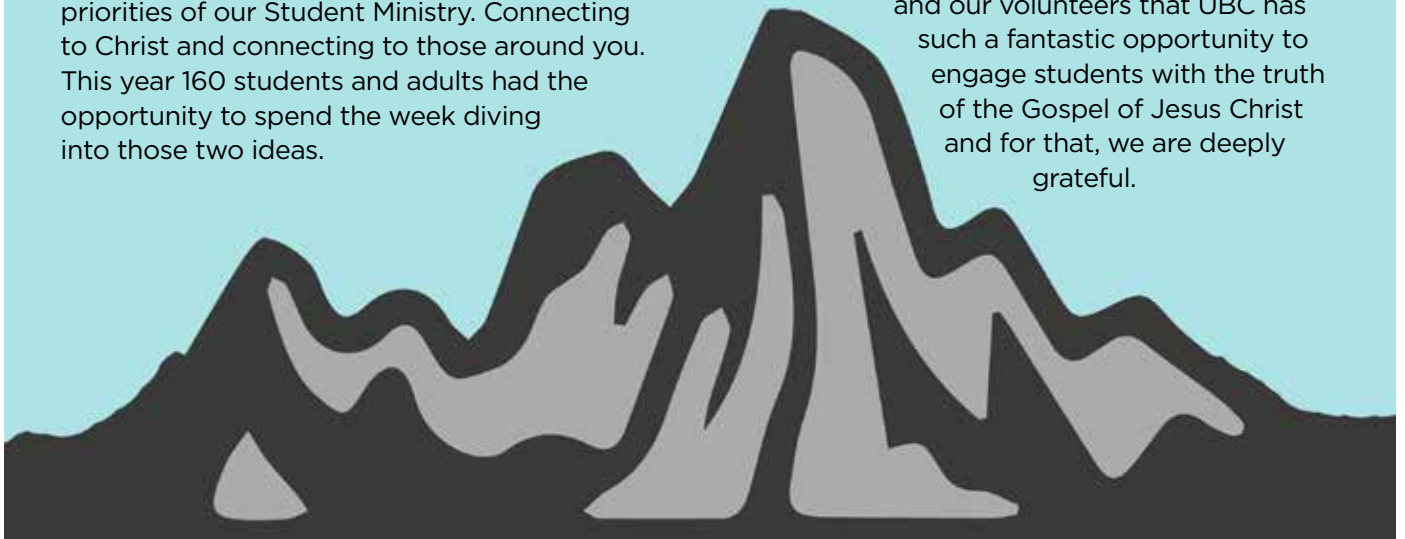
-Kelli Hines



Silver Cliff

It doesn't take much to understand why Silver Cliff is so vitally important to our students. The picturesque views from the hillside of Mt. Princeton are a reminder of God's magnificent creation and the beauty held within. Those same views are also stark reminders that we have been transported to a setting far from the Texas Gulf Coast. The weather is a bit cooler, the air is a lot thinner, and your friends are with you 24 hours a day. But the main difference is that your focus has shifted. You have a full week to direct your attention to the two main priorities of our Student Ministry. Connecting to Christ and connecting to those around you. This year 160 students and adults had the opportunity to spend the week diving into those two ideas.

From the bus drive there, morning and evening worship, daily Bible studies, small groups, recreation, family meal times, Red Belly Bonanza, early morning sunrises and late-night star gazing there is a beautiful spiritual development and growth that comes from these times of intent focus on God in your life. That growth can only be had from times like this. It is a shame many adults can't have a week of camp, but it is reserved for our children and teenagers. It is only because of the incredible support of our church and our volunteers that UBC has such a fantastic opportunity to engage students with the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for that, we are deeply grateful.



Thoughts from Africa: Kyle Wilson

So you're ready to come to Africa?!

Here's what you need to expect.

Heart-wrenching stories of women and children being raped.

Sobering relationships developed with children, 9-12 years olds living as the head of their household and caring for younger siblings.

Poverty like you have never experienced.

Physical and spiritual darkness you can't imagine. Just to name a few...

But you will also experience:

Beautiful people that love beyond their lot in life.

Amazing friends working every day to battle these dark efforts.

A church that goes to the people.

The most beautiful country that will literally take your breath away.

People with hearts of joy that will bring tears to your soul because of their love.

Oh, and don't think you will return with your whole heart.

Once here there will always be a part of you that stays behind.

Haibo!





Senior Sunday

On Senior Sunday, the Senior Class of 2018 celebrated Creating a Masterpiece: The Future is a Blank Canvas.



UM Army

Every summer UM Army recruits students to spend a week providing free home repairs for those who are physically or financially unable to do so. Building wheelchair ramps, porches, steps and handrails; painting and cleaning homes; as well as mowing yards, this ARMY reaches out and becomes missionaries serving God's people.

This year we traveled to Kountze, TX to partner with other churches for the week of service.

Enrico Bernal first participated in UM Army as a student and this year had the opportunity to go as an adult sponsor.

“When I was a student, I just worked on one team and would go to one or two work sites. The cool thing about being a sponsor is getting to see the big picture. There are a lot of details and pieces that work together so the week goes smoothly and work gets done.”
-Enrico Bernal

Highlight Choir

UBC is so blessed to have a group of talented students in Highlight Choir who love to use their musical skills to sing praise to our Lord and bring the joy of the Lord to our congregation and others. Each week, from September through May, these dedicated students practiced diligently and enjoyed time with each other building community while they prepared for multiple opportunities to sing in UBC worship services at both hours and a Christmas performance with the children's and intermediate school choirs.

In addition to leading our congregation in worship, the Highlight Choir prepared for a Dessert Theater in the spring for the enjoyment of our church members, friends and families and raised funds for bus expenses for the summer choir trip. It was a HUGE success and highlight of the year! The students' two performances were fantastic and so much fun for the performers and audience alike. The students had so much fun that they want to do another dessert theater this year!

Finally, the end of the year was capped off with a trip to Panama City Beach in June as a celebration of their diligent work and dedication. The choir spent the weekend at Laguna Beach Christian Resort and enjoyed playing and relaxing together on the beach. VERY early on Sunday morning (4:30 am), they traveled to First Baptist Baton Rouge to sing and ring handbells in their morning worship service. Now that is dedication! We were so proud of our students for wanting to lead worship for a sister church.

Thank you, UBC, for supporting the ministry of Highlight Choir! Our students are reaching far and wide with the Good News of Jesus through their song!





Blast Night

Over 50 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders came out for a fun time at Blast Night! There was an entertaining game of slip 'n slide kickball, a waterslide, and lots of other games to enjoy. The goal is that 6th graders can come to experience a night with other intermediate school students, to help integrate them into Student Ministries. Incoming sixth-grade parents were also able to meet together and get to know Student Ministries.



Back to School Bash

Over 170 students participated in the Back to School Bash.

Children's Ministries

K-1st Grade Luncheon

Incoming kindergarteners, first graders and their families joined us for a "Welcome to Children's Ministries" informational luncheon and circus extravaganza. Incoming K-1st graders also received their own Bible during worship service that morning.



Sports Camp

UBC has been doing Sports Camp for twelve years! Because of the consistency of the camp every year, the impact is continuous and eternal. Fleceia Comeaux, South Houston Director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), has been with Sports Camp for five years and explained the impact this way, "The beautiful thing is to see them grow through the years. Some of them have been at this basketball camp for 2-3 years now, and you see the first-year seed, then second-year seed, and now you see growth. We're using sports as a tool to share the gospel."

The goal at Sports Camp is for each child to learn and improve basketball, volleyball, or tennis skills and develop a strong sense of teamwork while maintaining a safe, Christian learning environment. We hope all campers will walk away with an improved understanding and playing ability while having fun!

This year we had 140 kids participating. Forty student helpers invested in the campers and six coaches led the camp.

The role of our coaches is critical to the success of the program. When we asked about their favorite parts of the Sports Camp week, this is what the coaches had to say:

I love coaching cause I get to spend more time around kids and it fills my soul to be able to spend time with them and connect with them as well as the parents. I get to show them what the Kingdom God just by the way I live and the way I coach.

The community of the church has an impact on the camp! We do a Bible study where the youth teach our children about Jesus. The children come away with better basketball skills, but most importantly we get to show them the example of Christ. Everybody has an outlet and sports is our outlet.

The great thing about this camp and sets it apart is that it allows us to bring the gospel and Jesus into the sports world. We can talk a lot about attitude, how to treat other people, and also talk about loving Jesus. It's just been a great experience, I really enjoy it, and I'm looking forward to how it continues to grow.

Thank you to all who had a part in this year's Sports Camp!







VBS

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus was another incredible week of VBS at UBC. We were blessed with an average of 996 children, volunteers, and staff involved during the week! Over \$7,000 was raised for projects in the Dominican Republic during the 4 days!

We ventured onto an uncharted island where kids survived and thrived. Kids were anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

Kids learned:
When you're lonely...Jesus rescues!
When you struggle...Jesus rescues!
When you do wrong...Jesus rescues!
When you're powerless...Jesus rescues!

A special thank you goes out to our directors Merideth Bahnsen, Jennifer Simmons, and Katy Ernst for a job well done!





Karen Murphy is with Todd Hamilton and Joy Hamilton Bradbury.
June 12 · 🌐
Wow!!! You are NEVER too old to be a CREW CAPTAIN at VBS at UBC!! Thank you Todd Hamilton (89 years old!!!!). You are a true example for us to follow!!!

Karen Murphy is with Ben Sandstrom
June 12 · 🌐
Ben Sandstrom thank you!!!!

Karen Murphy is with Kyle Wilson.
June 14 · 🌐
I am so blessed to be able to work with this guy!! He is an amazing student pastor and such a GREAT TEAM PLAYER!! Thank you Kyle Wilson!!!!

KAMP KABOOM

Kamp Kaboom is a FUN week of sharing our faith and love for God and others through science.

This year our theme focused on the power of God at work in our lives.

Power

P Prayer

O Obedience

W Wisdom

E Everlasting Love

R Respect

“My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”-2 Corinthians 12:9

Each day, 125 Kamp Kaboom campers and over 50 volunteers rotated through two Bible devotions with an accompanying science experiment. There was also a larger project that coordinated with our theme. Additionally, they enjoyed snack time and game time.

Our science experiments and projects were a multitude of fun science. Some of these included making hover crafts, marble roller coasters, film canister rockets, shrinky dinks, and sharpie tie-dyes. The campers also enjoyed participating in dry ice labs and buoyancy experiments. One of the kid's favorites was making ice cream.

The first three days of camp we traveled off-site to enjoy other science opportunities like Space Center Houston, The Health Museum, and Armand Bayou Nature Center.

The kids especially love time with their teen leaders who accompany them during their various activities.



Here is what some of the kids have to say about Kamp Kaboom:

“My favorite things at Kamp Kaboom are meeting new people and going on field trips and hanging out with new friends. Thank you, Miss Karen!” **Carlos**

“I like how everyone here loves God and shows it. They help me in science and in learning about God. They are all so kind and forgiving. On field trips, they help me to be the best. Everyone here is so nice. Thank you, Miss Karen!” **Mackenzie**

“The reason I enjoy serving in Kamp Kaboom or any UBC event is because of the kids. I love working with them and teaching them. It is so much fun to do science experiments with them. Although that is fun, the main reason I work UBC camps is to show them the love of Jesus through words and actions. I remember when I was in 2nd and 3rd grade, I used to think that the leaders were the coolest people in the world. My experience at Kamp Kaboom was so much fun, and I hope all of the kids had as much fun as I did.” **Micah**

PRETEEN CAMP

On Sunday afternoon, July 29 we loaded up 50 kids and 12 adults and ventured out to a new camp - Lake Tomahawk Christian Retreat Center in Livingston, Texas. We spent four nights at camp and had a BLAST! Our theme was SURVIVOR, and our verse was Joshua 1:1-9. The kids spent the week focusing on courage, strength, and faith.

Seven a.m. was rise and shine! Each morning started with devotionals in our bunks. After breakfast, we were off to "Team Time Challenge" (dry recreation games). After Team Time, we gathered with our church group for a small group Bible study and then morning worship.

After lunch, it was game on with Wet and Wild! Kids loved the afternoon "Hang Time." It gave them time to do whatever activities they wanted to. They had a lot to choose from: swimming, canoes, paddle boats, zip line, rock wall, gaga ball, hiking, volleyball, basketball, crafts, board games, movies, 9 square, dodgeball, archery, BB guns, and fishing

Josh Rogers and his band led evening worship. And our speaker was Tim Bertram who is the creative arts pastor for God's Graffiti Ministry. As both speaker and artist, Tim did such a great job of uniquely capturing our kid's attention while connecting them to God's Word. He ended each evening worship time with a drawing that had the kids mesmerized!

The most exciting part of camp this year is that four of our kids gave their hearts to Christ!



Bible Drill

The weekend of May 18-20 was so highly anticipated in our home this year that our children created a 'Countdown to San Antonio' chart. Every night before bed the last number was crossed off, and our daughter announced how many days until we would hit the road. The destination? The Staybridge Inn Suites NW and Six Flags Amusement Park. Although that weekend had been previously filled with commitments and travel plans, our girls skipped rehearsals, and we adjusted Aaron's travel plans so that our family could attend this awesome weekend with 8-10 other UBC families. We had such a wonderful time last year that when we were offered the opportunity to attend again this year, we had to make it work!

This celebratory weekend provides families time to enjoy a weekend together with other Bible Drill families. All kids who participated in the Church Bible Drill in March were invited to this special weekend with a free ticket to Six Flags Over Texas in San Antonio. The support of family is vital for Drilling participants. This weekend recognizes the hard work put into Drilling and offers families the opportunity to celebrate together. The organized weekend plans culminate in a shared meal at a local restaurant provided by UBC. Kudos to Karen for all of the extra planning that went into this year's trip and the stellar deal on the spacious, clean accommodations!

The highly anticipated weekend did not disappoint - we had a wonderful time of family fun and fellowship with other UBC families we otherwise would not have spent a weekend away with. Thank you, UBC, for loving kids and ministering to families in creative ways! - Mandy McDonald

Preschool Ministries

Right at Home Moms - Summer 2018

Our summer semester, June 20 - August 15, brought 18 moms studying *Motivate Your Child*. "Internal motivation comes from the heart, but just because something comes from the heart doesn't make it good. That's why God designed two things to keep the heart going in the right direction: the conscience and the Holy Spirit," says authors Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN BSN.

Each Wednesday morning, the group learned specific tools and ideas to help their children build internal motivation to do what is right. Children, ages 3 years-5th grade, who attended Kingdom Care while their moms participated in the group study, had a unique curriculum of their own: Hero Training Camp. This support material used the life of David to teach kids that God has provided them with the standard equipment to be heroes in training now. Fun crafts, energizing games, science experiments and role plays helped to teach the children to be internally motivated.

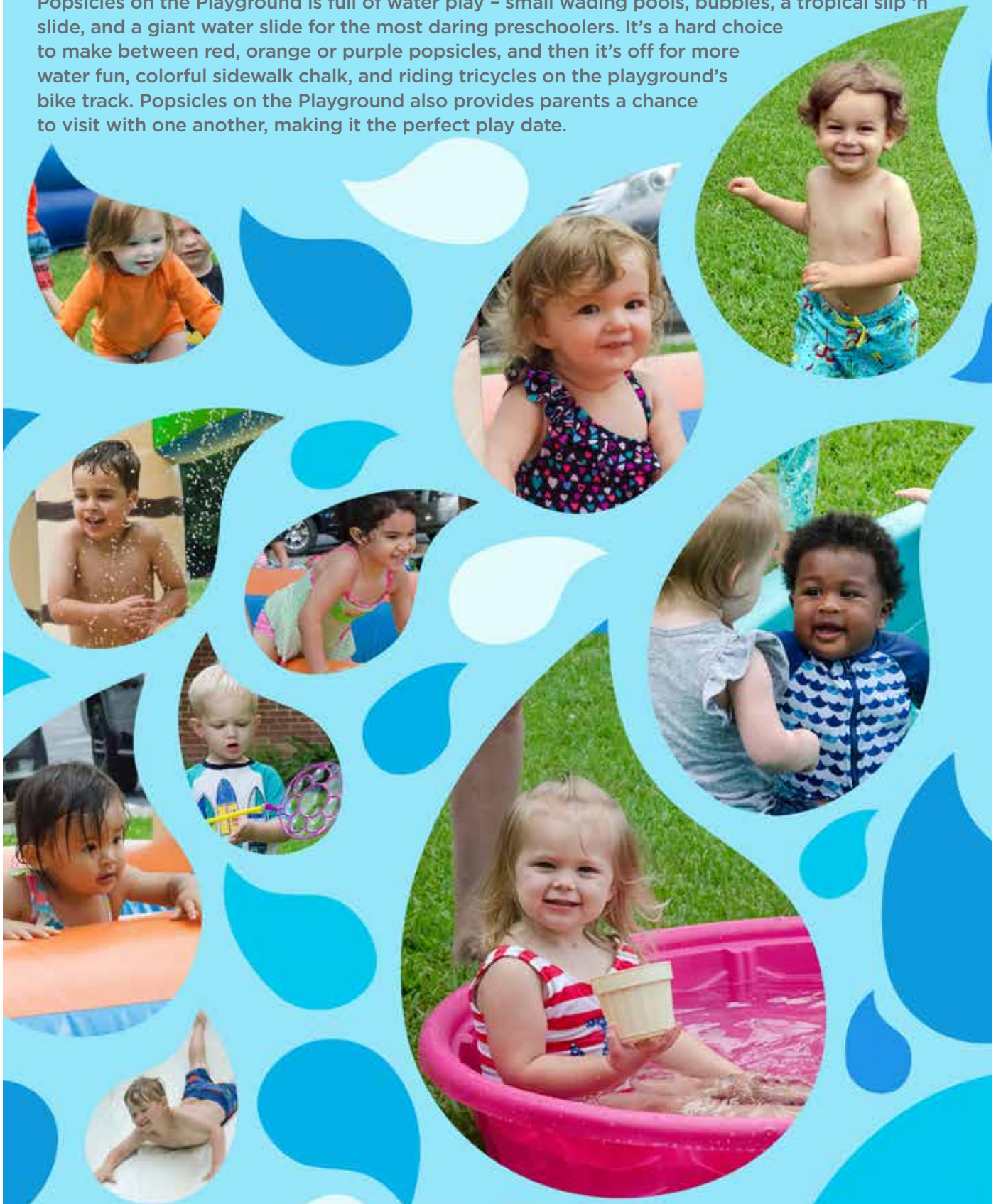
The summer semester also allowed time for play dates, a Mom's Night Out, and an end of the semester pool party.

Right at Home Moms is a family ministry of UBC 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!

Popsicles on the Playground

It was fun while it lasted! The rains held off for most of the event, on May 23, before the 130 parents and children scattered to their cars. No worries - the kids were in their swimsuits!

Popsicles on the Playground is full of water play - small wading pools, bubbles, a tropical slip 'n slide, and a giant water slide for the most daring preschoolers. It's a hard choice to make between red, orange or purple popsicles, and then it's off for more water fun, colorful sidewalk chalk, and riding tricycles on the playground's bike track. Popsicles on the Playground also provides parents a chance to visit with one another, making it the perfect play date.



Ready, Set, Go!

Preschool Ministries began the summer with a family mission focus. Ready, Set, Go! gives families an opportunity to serve in simple ways during June, July and August.

Our kickoff begins in early June with collecting non-perishable food items for the Clear Lake Food Pantry. Several boxes of canned goods were delivered later that month by our Kindergartners during our mission camp, KJOY.

July 7 brought the perfect overcast summer day for Popsicles in the Parks. Families were encouraged to play at their favorite park and share popsicles and water with others who had come to play. "I liked meeting new people," said Alexis Clark, age 4. "And, I had an orange popsicle at the park!" Later that evening, we joined together at UBC's playground and enjoyed grilled hot dogs, chips and lemonade for dinner.

Lighthouse Christian Ministries was our service project on August 4. Families purchased specific items to make bags and help feed the homeless. Six families attended, sorting and organizing before placing each item in the bag. Children and parents also created cards with colorful pictures, sweet thoughts and prayers. "When UBC came last summer, we gave a bag to a homeless man who comes in often," stated Tammy Eckart, LCM's Operation Director. "The next time this man came in, he commented on the card in his bag. He was touched that a child had made that card for him, and his life is now turned around."





Parent Dedication

Sachin and Angela Thomas dedicate their three children: Annaleise Joy, Isabella Mercy and Alban Josiah Wayne and Jamie Simons dedicate their son, Bryson William; Big sister, Skylar

KJOY

“It is one thing to tell a child to love and serve others, but actually showing them how to do it makes a huge difference,” said Shelley Johnson. “My daughter was able to understand the Great Commandment by putting God’s word into action!”

KJOY - Kindergartners learning to serve Jesus first, Others second, Yourself last. For eight summers, we have enjoyed watching children get excited about learning simple ways of serving others and not expecting anything in return. Eleven students participated in KJOY, June 25-28.

Children brought non-perishable foods and placed scripture labels on the items. We decorated brown grocery bags with words such as God Provides and Jesus Loves You. We also made quart size bags of rice and beans. Harvesting UBC’s Walden Garden is among the kids’ favorite things. This year, 55.75 lbs of bell peppers, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes were gathered. We then took all the food and grocery bags to the Clear Lake Food Pantry where we also received a tour for a better understanding of how the food pantry helps people. Ms. Linda Sarp, a volunteer for the pantry, emailed two days after our delivery saying they had given ALL the fresh produce to people in need as well as some of the canned goods with scriptures and the beautifully decorated bags!



When asked about her favorite thing she did for someone else this week, Kindergartner Nicole Ritz answered, “making blankets.” Our group tied 24 fleece blankets with fun designs and donated them to Texas Oncology in Webster. We later learned ALL the blankets had been given out to chemotherapy patients to use during their treatments to keep them warm. Mercedes King’s favorite thing was singing at the cancer center. The patients in the lobby welcomed these sweet voices with lots of smiles and clapping.



Several KJOY campers said their favorite opportunity to serve others was painting ceramics with the elderly residents at Heartis Assisted Living. We also hung brightly colored door hangers on the residents’ doors. The children then sang a few songs with the grand finale of Happy Birthday to KJOY participant Coraline Johnson’s great-grandmother who was celebrating her 96th birthday.

A favorite of Lyle Tucker’s was making snack bags for the homeless. Filled with peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit cups, mints, water, and a handwritten prayer by the children, they were encouraged to keep the bags in the car to hand out when seeing someone in need.

Our last day was spent at Clear Lake Regional Hospital where we gave out busy bags to children in the hospital. The busy bags contained fun things such as puzzles, activity pages, crayons, playdough and candy. We then headed to McDonald’s to finish out a perfect week! Yourself last - where the children enjoyed playing and eating with their friends.



Preschool Play Days 2018

Parents always look forward to Preschool Play Days. A creative playtime filled with biblical principles helps to solve the mid-summer slump in July. Ninety-four children, ages 4 months-6 years, participated in Dare To Be a Daniel, July 16-19, where new friends were made, and old friends were delighted in seeing each other again.

“

“My daughter, Clare (age 4), was able to tell me so many things - ‘We learned A LOT about God!’ She could tell us the Bible verse and activities. She had a great time!” shared Jennifer Dean who brought three children to Play Days.

”

Under the direction of Kymberlee Allen and Laura Ozinga, parents and children didn’t want the week to end. The days were complete with a story-related snack about Daniel, organized recreation at the Place Playground, songs and instruments in Music Celebration, fun crafts in the Marketplace, exciting activities during Tribe Time, and interactive Bible stories in Daniel’s Adventures. We also had a mission project where we learned about children in Zambia. Over \$234.00 was raised for Alliance for Children Everywhere to purchase 10 backpacks filled with school supplies for the children of Zambia.





“

Another mom wrote on the evaluation for the week, “My four-year-old came home on Wednesday and told her little brother, ‘When you are scared, God is with you!’ when he said he was scared to go to his room by himself. It made me so happy to hear she was directing him to God because of what she learned at Play Days.”

”



“

Even our teachers experienced a special time during Preschool Play Days. “The lesson touched me greatly,” shared first time Play Days teacher Carolyn Russell. “Though teaching it to three-year-olds, God reminded me of how much he is with me too. Having gone through the recent loss of my husband, Gary, and learning this week’s Bible points (When things change, when you are lonely, when you’re afraid and when you’re thankful – God is always with you), it really hit home. I needed to be reminded of that.”

”

Weekday Ministries



Farewell to Fours

In May 2018, there were 47 preschoolers who “graduated” from PreK. To acknowledge this momentous occasion, we did a lot of celebrating. We had a Farewell to Fours Fun Fair, Farewell to Fours Field Day and ended with our annual Farewell to Fours Program. During the program, the PreK children shared with their families what they have learned while they were a part of Weekday Ministries.... that they have God with them all times and they can be strong and courageous with God by their sides. The children sang songs, read scripture and shared about “Growing Like Jesus.” Each child was then presented with a Read-to-Me Bible, a Farewell to Fours Certificate and a Gold Star Medal. All of those in attendance celebrated with cupcakes and lemonade--- and lots of pictures. What a blessing these children and their families have been to UBC.

Mary Bartel Retires

Retirement....the person that is retiring is usually really excited....the people that work with that person, typically, will not be quite as excited. With the retirement of Mary Bartel, both of these things were certainly the case. Mary has been a part of Weekday for 25 years---1993-2018. She has been such a consistent face for our program. Families loved entering our hallway, knowing that Ms. Mary would be there to greet them. She welcomed each person and she knew everyone's name! Before she became the Assistant Director, she spent a few years in the infant room---an amazing baby whisperer! Just as a mother loves her children, Mary loved Weekday....the children, the parents, the extended family, the staff.... she loved them all unconditionally, she nurtured them, she supported them, she encouraged them, she has always been there for them. What a blessing she has been!

We celebrated Ms. Mary by recognizing her on May 13 and presented her with a quilt that had quilt squares that were decorated by many Weekday families and staff. The quilt was pieced together by Cindy Newpher and quilted by George Anne McBride. It is truly a masterpiece that is symbolic of how Mary loved people well while at UBC Weekday. There was a reception held in honor of Mary on May 17...Muffins for Mary. Many former Weekday families and current Weekday families stopped by to wish her well in her retirement.

And....just for the record....Mary served as a preschool volunteer teaching Preschool WBS from 1986-2010. Obviously, she has such a heart for preschoolers.

In total....32 years of service at UBC....
thank you Mary for loving on
children and their families.



Worship Ministries

The worship team had a busy summer working on a new project and leading events around the community.

I love that for the last two years my summer has started with leading worship at VBS! This year, Lindsay and I had the pleasure of working alongside Rick and Tonya Wright to build the ship and stage set. We were very pleased with the way everything turned out!

I have such a blast at VBS and love to see what God does in the lives of the students and the volunteers. Experiencing the energy in the building and seeing the impact and change that takes place over those 4 days is priceless.

We love Dunn Brothers and got to play a show there this summer. One of my favorite parts of about playing at this venue is the flexibility to perform multiple sets and take breaks in between to talk to people and build relationships. This summer we made a really great connection with a guy who owns a local venue. He really enjoyed our music and wants us to come play at his place. This is another great opportunity for us to be an extension of UBC and God's heart in the community while building relationships with folks in our city.

We are getting ready to release the new instrumental album titled "Echoes of Grace" this fall, and I couldn't be more excited to put this in the hands of our church members. This record is a list of hymns that have been reimagined in our musical writing style. We will package this album with devotionals and spiritual exercises that pair with each song. I am really praying this can be used as a tool for personal spiritual growth and also as a musical backdrop for everyday life. Right now, we are finishing up production and finalizing recordings, and then we'll enter the mixing and mastering phase. We're excited for this to be a refreshing experience for people as they study the Word of God and worship.

I had the opportunity to go to LA with the team from UBC. I spent time with their worship team to talk about their infrastructure and bring different elements of training and resources to them.

A few essential parts of these ongoing conversations and training dynamics are:

- to foster a unique voice,
- to learn how to grow and shepherd a team,
- to build unity on the worship team and in the church,
- and to cultivate a relevant worship experience that is authentic and powerful from the ground up.

I look forward to continuing our relationship with The House LA, and I am excited to be an ongoing partner with them in their journey and growth as a church

-Ben Sandstrom, Associate Pastor of Contemporary Worship Ministries

Attendance Report

WORSHIP AVERAGES			
	9:30	11:00	Totals
May-Aug 2017	540	379	919
May-Aug 2018	483	368	851

ADULT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
May-Aug 2017	862	310
May-Aug 2018	862	384

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
May-Aug 2017	418	186
May-Aug 2018	450	191

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
May-Aug 2017	316	133
May-Aug 2018	397	141

STUDENT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
May-Aug 2017	462	113
May-Aug 2018	428	168

PRESCHOOL AVG. MAY-AUG 2018	
Praise Kids Choir Concert	150
Popsicles on the Playground	120
KJOY Missions Camp	16
Play Days Camp	127
Ready Set Go Missions LCM Event	21
Right At Home Moms Ministry	18

CHILDREN'S AVG. MAY-AUG 2018	
Chorus Kids Concerts	150+
PS/CM VBS Rally Night	150+
Sports Camp	186
PS/CM VBS	996 (4 day Avg)
Kamp Kaboom	125+ 50 Volunteers
Preteen Camp	50 kids 12 Adults
Summer Movie Clubhouse	60
Schlitterbahn	43
Pirates Bay	34

STUDENT MINISTRY AVG. MAY-AUG 2018	
Beach Retreat	92
SilverCliff	159
UM Army	32
South Africa	9
IS Blast Night	50+
Back to School Bash	170+

ADULT EVENT TOTALS MAY-AUG 2018	
FM Leadership Appreciation Dinner	170

Financial Report

University Baptist Church 11 Months October 2017 to August 2018 (91%)

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
Budgetary Contributions	\$3,541,249			
Ministry Contributions	\$26,666			
Other Income	\$25,950			
Total Revenue	\$3,593,865			
Missions Ministry	\$354,125	\$365,000	\$10,875	97.02%
Communications Ministry	\$90,084	\$104,000	\$13,916	86.62%
Serving Ministries	\$17,860	\$27,850	\$9,990	64.13%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$38,423	\$52,800	\$14,377	72.77%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$13,202	\$23,150	\$9,948	57.03%
Adult Ministry	\$48,070	\$85,700	\$37,630	56.09%
Student Ministry	\$44,536	\$57,000	\$12,464	78.13%
Children Ministry	\$33,343	\$45,900	\$12,557	72.64%
Preschool Ministry	\$15,466	\$23,600	\$8,134	65.54%
Total Ministry	\$655,108	\$785,000	\$129,892	83.45%
Administration	\$178,695	\$191,000	\$12,305	93.56%
Personnel	\$1,933,897	\$2,189,000	\$255,103	88.35%
Total Administration	\$2,112,592	\$2,380,000	\$267,408	88.76%
Facility	\$432,453	\$485,000	\$52,547	89.17%
Capital Improvements	\$31,832	\$0	(\$31,832)	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$464,285	\$485,000	\$20,715	95.73%
Total Expenditures	\$3,231,985	\$3,650,000	\$418,015	88.55%
Net Income	\$361,880			
	Begin	Activity	End	
Designated Funds	\$513,748	(\$2,475)	\$511,272	
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Unrestricted Funds			\$444,067	
Total Cash & Investments			\$1,455,340	
Current Other Assets (a)			\$1,893	
Current Liabilities			\$84,661	
Mortgage			\$0	

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes:

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

Membership Report

UBC Membership Additions May-August 2018

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Landon Bochat
- Jason Demers
- Parker Demers
- Thomas R. Driskell
- Maria Isabel Drummond
- Chloe Grindstaff
- Madison Gowan
- Anabelle McDonald
- Matt Mellin
- Rilee Mullins
- Rusty Mullins
- Heather Sims
- Jacob Sims
- Zach Sims
- Craig Thompson
- Olivia Wagner

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Karla Chenault
- Kinsey Chenault
- Marty Chenault
- Dr. Daniela Drummond
- Joshua Minyon
- Mary Ellen Minyon
- Robert W. Minyon
- Sara Minyon
- Cesar F. Saldana
- Lucille Saldana
- Rick Wright
- Tonya Wright

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Sophia Scott
- Shelbi Smith
- Hiroka Thompson

UBC Membership Deletions May-August 2018

MEMBERS LETTERED OUT

- Debbie Cave
- John Cave
- Jackie Freeman
- Roy Graves

MEMBERS BY ERASURE

- Kevin Cohn
- Linda Leonard
- Ray Leonard
- Joshua Wardlaw
- Laura Wardlaw
- Travis Wardlaw

BY DEATH

- Greg Blackwell
- Jerald Burks
- Roy Cone
- Bill Nunnery, Jr.

Administrative Report

Focus Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2018

The Focus Meeting was held in The Hangar at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 25 people in attendance.

The Senior Pastor's Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Executive Director's Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

Facility Updates are on pages 6 and 7 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Serving Ministries Report is on pages 8 - 11 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Care Ministries Report is on pages 11 - 12 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Faith @ Home Ministries Report is on pages 13 - 15 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Adult Ministries Report is on page 16 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Women's Ministries Report is on pages 17 - 19 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 20 - 22 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 23 - 25 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on pages 26 - 27 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on pages 28 - 29 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 30 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Attendance Report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship are found on page 31 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Financial Report is on page 32 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

A full report of the membership changes during the period January - April are on page 33 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018. During that period, 10 were received by baptism; 17 by letter; and 8 by statement.

Requests for letters

- Lynn Carreon
- Pete Carreon III
- Christi Ortiz
- Mark Ortiz
- Jennifer Simmons
- Todd Simmons
- John R. Stokes
- Vernice Stokes

By Erasure

- None

By Death

- Jim Hackett
- Shirley Hughes
- Evelyn Richardson (passed away on 09/17/2017)

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Laura Vincent and a second by Wayne Hale. 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 Brent Cochran.

The minutes of the January 28, 2018 Focus Meeting are on pages 34 - 35 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion by Laura Vincent and a second by Kyle Tupin.

The Worship Pastor search committee report is on page 35 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

Focus Meeting Minutes cont.

The Mission Giving Summary is on pages 36 – 37 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The UBC Foundation Report is on page 38 of the Book of Reports dated May 27, 2018.

The Pastors of UBC brought a recommendation to the meeting requesting that Aaron Glenn and Ben Sandstrom be licensed into the Gospel Ministry. Since this is a recommendation there does not need to be a motion but a second was given by Debbie Tupin. This recommendation was approved by voice vote.

Those responding to the request to represent UBC as BGCT messengers at the annual meeting July 29 – 31, 2018 are as follows:

- Randy Cox
- Donna Cox
- Garet Robinson
- David Mobley
- Steve Laufer

These requests were approved by voice vote after a motion by Wayne Hale and a second by Jeanine Lawrence.

Also, Garet Robinson was approved by voice vote as a Southern Baptist Association messenger to attend the annual meeting on June 12, 2018 after a motion was given by Wayne Hale and a second by Jeanine Lawrence.

Dr. Laufer asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was given by Jim McLeroy and a second by Kyle Tupin.

Dr. Laufer asked Robert Bradbury to close the meeting with a prayer.

Virginia Thomas
Church Secretary

Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

As we close FY2018, we will have seen many long-awaited projects come to realization:

- The remodel of the Children's Ministry area is complete,
- Our Pavilion has been dedicated and is in full use,
- The Mission Training Center will be completed before year end,
- Modest improvements to the foyer have been completed.

In response to the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, UBC cooperated with many area churches to minister to thousands of families and mud out or repair thousands of homes. God's Kingdom has been advanced in the midst of great trials for so many people, allowing them to be connected with His Kingdom.

Ministry initiatives have launched and continue to help us grow as a Family of Christ Followers. These include the Spanish ministry, Faith at Home initiatives, and the continuation of local partnerships.

It is with gratitude and confidence that the Executive Council is proposing a 1.8% increase in the budget to fully fund UBC's ministry efforts for FY2019. Since the Lord provided a budget surplus for FY2018, the FY2019 proposed budget is less than anticipated FY2018 income.

Though the increase is modest, there has been a considerable amount of budget restructuring with personnel changes and new ministry objectives. This proposal also represents a fourth straight year of increased ministry funding, although the overall budgets have remained flat during this time. Detailed budget allocations will be available at the Budget Review Meeting.

The budget details will be explored at the Budget Review Meeting on September 23rd at 7:00 in the Chapel. The Focus Meeting on September 30th will be a vote on the budget with minimal discussion.

Please be in prayer for good stewardship as well as for the plans God has for us.

Respectfully,

The Executive Council

Chris Carlson, Chair, Steve Laufer, Senior Pastor, Delynn Halloran, Richard Simmons, Brynda McCormick, Cory Thompson, David Mobley, Executive Director

The ministry plan represents a 1.8% increase from FY 2018.

Detailed budget allocations will be available at the Budget Review Meeting for discussion.

October 2018 - September 2019

Account	FY 2019 Proposed	FY 2018 Budget	Notes
Budget	\$3,715,000	\$ 3,650,000	
Missions	\$ 371,500	\$ 365,000	10% of budget
Communications	\$ 114,000	\$ 104,000	Website funding and personnel development
Serving	\$ 18,200	\$ 27,850	Funded by increased funding from UBC portion of 10% Missions
Music & Worship	\$ 55,800	\$ 52,800	Equipment/Instrument updates
Pastoral Care	\$ -	\$ 23,150	Disbursed to other ministry offices
Family Ministries	\$ 34,500		Consolidated Faith@Home and Family Ministries Funding
Women's Ministries	\$ 11,500		Consolidated with slight increase in funding
Adult	\$ 69,200	\$ 85,700	Separated Family and Women's Ministry funding
Student	\$ 62,000	\$ 57,000	Parent Conference and Student Ministry Missions
Children	\$ 49,000	\$ 45,900	VBS and Equipment
Preschool	\$ 23,600	\$ 23,600	
Total Ministry Expenses	\$ 809,300	\$ 785,000	
Administration	\$ 219,700	\$ 191,000	Computer service, equipment, internet, food services, banking fees
Personnel	\$ 2,196,000	\$ 2,189,000	Numerous adjustments including Police Officers
Facility	\$ 490,000	\$ 485,000	Numerous adjustments including AC repairs

UBC Foundation Reports

Thailand

Every time I go to Thailand I'm struck by both the kindness and hospitality of the local people mixed with the incredibly challenging environment for Christians and churches to operate and thrive. Most pie charts that depict the statistics of religious groups in the country look remarkably like Pac-Man (especially when the color yellow represents Buddhism). Estimates range anywhere from 93-96% of the country's residents who identify with the national religion. Of the remaining populace, 4-5% identify as Muslim and less than 2% identify as Christian. Our Christian friends there are not only faced with being a drastic religious minority, but also the majority religion is generally viewed as part of the fabric of national and cultural Thailand.

My relationship with one Baptist church in the northeastern city of Udon Thani was formed through a mutual connection who is a former UBC family. A second former UBC family is now members of this church also. The pastor of their church is a well-respected and widely connected Christian leader in all of Thailand; as well as in the greater Southeast Asian Christian community. Through his friendship and leadership, UBC partnered this past June to provide a 3-day Pastor's theological conference. These types of training opportunities for small, often bi-vocational, pastors are vital to their spiritual development. Many of them live in family, work, and church environments where full-time theological education is challenging or even impossible. And so the extent of theological training they receive comes from opportunities just like this.

On June 7-9, 32 Christian leaders from NE Thailand and Laos gathered at a retreat center for three days of training and education pertaining to the biblical interpretation, ministry application, and preaching of the first five books of the Old Testament, Genesis through Deuteronomy. A grant from the UBC Foundation entirely funded the conference. For us, the initiative is not simply in providing a retreat, but in making a lasting investment in the theological education of Christian leaders, both paid and volunteer, women and men, young and old. Our hope and prayer are that investment in each of those leaders is a long-term investment in each of the churches where they serve. That God will take UBC's time, money, and love for God's Word, and multiply it over and over again in the work and ministry of these numerous communities of faith seeking to connect people to God's Kingdom in places you and I will never go.

Please pray for these churches, their pastors and lay leaders, and their church members. Pray that their efforts to share the gospel in their communities will be effective and fruitful. Pray that the Lord will continue to provide for all their needs, financial, material, and spiritual. Thanks for allowing me the time to be gone and to participate in this endeavor (along with preaching at our host church in Udonthani, and spending time with their pastor and resident missionaries), and thanks for supporting the UBC Foundation which is investing in theological education both here at home and abroad.

-Dr. Steve Laufer, Senior Pastor



Foundation Scholarship Essays

The Foundation awarded \$2,000 scholarships to 5 students this year! Each year students write essays about their experience and involvement at UBC. We wanted to share some of their stories from those essays.

“Coming to UBC in ninth grade is one of the decisions that has most profoundly affected my spiritual growth and development in relationship with Christ and in understanding how to live as an example of Christ wherever I am. Ever since I joined UBC, the church has provided me with countless opportunities for spiritual growth and its members have poured into my life in ways that I can hardly describe. Not just in surface level ways, but in ways that say, “I care about you because God cares about you and I want to see you grown into the man that God created you to be.” Whether that means having WBS teachers who come to band performances, a youth minister who “loves you” and “means it” with his actions and his words, or a mentor who invites me to go fishing and sit down for coffee on Friday mornings before school, the presence of God had surrounded me and enveloped me for four years through some amazing people.”

“I grew up very differently from most Christians today. I was only in the church about three Sundays a year since my mother was Jewish and my dad did not have a relationship with God. My parents rarely ever talked about their beliefs. This caused me to go through my childhood without knowing much about the church or Christianity. In elementary school, I tried to fit in any way possible. I spent the first fourteen years of my life cursing and trying to be the ‘cool kid.’ It wasn’t until I met a girl with a true relationship with God that Jesus transformed my life.

I was invited to University Baptist Church (UBC) in 2015, and I was overwhelmed. The people at UBC didn’t even know me, but they treated me like I belonged there. I was quickly encouraged to dive deep into questions about what I believed to be the truth. I couldn’t discuss these questions with my parents, so I turned again to UBC. I posed questions to my youth minister, and one of the head pastors at the church, along with friends that had personal relationships with God. The love and wisdom that UBC and its entire Student Ministry shared with me allowed me to seek and find truth quickly. I was baptized, publicly professing my faith, after only eight months of searching.”

“My heart was filled with joy from the love and support I felt as I gazed at the congregation on November 16, 2008. Little did I know, however, that Dr. Creech baptized me, God would continually shape me through UBC.

Before I was even born, my parents have taken me to UBC. Through their Sunday School, my parents developed friendships with five different couples. All six families have gone camping each year for the last fifteen years. As a result, I established strong friendships, and gained a number of adults who love and support me like my parents! Following my parents’ example, I found my best friends at UBC. While we go to different high schools, we met through our love for Christ and UBC. Our friendship has grown through activities like Choir, Sunday School, Crave, and Merge. Thanks to UBC, I have both mentors and best friends, who strengthen my faith!”

“Our commission as believers is to further His kingdom here on Earth and I can now say that I desire that with all of my heart. I want to be an ambassador for Christ so that others can experience the fullness of life, real life, with Him. UBC has equipped me in so many ways to be a Christian leader in my community. Through events such as the Student Leadership Academy, a program in which we learned tools of being a leader and characteristics of good leadership through the lens of the Bible, and Apprentice Groups, a time in which I was given the opportunity to be a bible study leader, I have gained a foundation of Christian leadership. This Christ-filled confidence that I have gained within my community of believers, can be seen in my community at school as well. I help lead a Bible study at my school on Thursday mornings which is due to the foundation that UBC has helped give me.

I have learned so much about God’s character over my time at UBC and He is still teaching me so much. I cannot thank UBC enough for playing such an active role in my life and for encouraging not only myself but all of their students to come to Christ with a heart fully abandoned for Him alone.”

“Moving to Houston was initially hard. However, my parents decided to take me to UBC where I have met so many amazing people that have made this move easier. This church has made me want to be closer to God than I had ever wanted to before. My friends here at UBC really push me towards actively seeking Christ and bettering my relationship with God. They help me make decisions based on what God is telling me instead of what I want. In my Monday night girl group, I have been able to grow not only closer to God, but closer to my church friends. Being held accountable by this group makes me realize how far in my journey I have come during these last two years and it makes me excited for what God has in store for my future. This church has also displayed the characteristics of what God’s church is supposed to be like. It has showed me how people should respond to differences in the church. It has proved that disagreements shouldn’t get a person kicked out of church. That people will always be welcome despite differences.”

“In high school, I was talked into trying a new camp UBC wanted to join called UM Army. I didn’t really understand what we were going to be doing, but I trusted our leaders and signed up to go. When I arrived, I was immediately kicked out of my comfort zone and put with strangers. On Monday, my group started building a porch in the humid heat in July. God placed me in the most uncomfortable situation he could put me in. By Wednesday, I was convinced that I was not going to come back to UM Army. My group finished the remaining details on the porch and we presented it to our clients. They needed a safe way out of their home. The little old man came out of his house and walked out on the porch with a smile on his face. He was so grateful for his porch where he could watch birds fly by. This feeling of joy rushed over me. The rest of the week I began to have fun with my other group members. That week I felt God had called me to serve others in all aspects of my life.”



From left to right: Katy Pyle, Evan Albright, Cassidy Jordan, Amaryst Wynn, Sara Vogel

UBC Foundation Report

The UBC Foundation (UBCF) has been busy funding scholarships and ministries. In addition, the Foundation had another successful Dine Out to Donate and will be hosting the Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, November 5.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS - \$12,000

A generous donation in 2017 enabled an increase in the number of student scholarship recipients from 4 to 5 and an increase in the amount of scholarships from \$1,600 to \$2,000 per student for 2018. The deserving recipients include: Cassidy Jordan, Katy Pyle, Evan Albright, Sara Vogel, Amaryst Wynn and David Pugh received the Bob Wall Orchestra Scholarship. Congratulations to these students!

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS - \$4,000

The Foundation is privileged to award the first two Ministerial Education Scholarships to Rachel Halloran and Josh Mobley, who will each receive \$2,000.

Rachel Halloran will be attending George W. Truett Theological Seminary and Baylor Law School pursuing a joint masters degree with Masters of Divinity and a Juris Doctorate. The degree takes 5-6 years to complete and is designed to bring together the skills needed to pursue a calling to advocacy, which in Rachel's case involves work with displaced refugees and immigrants.

Joshua Mobley will be attending Durham University in the United Kingdom to pursue a PhD program in theology. Upon completion of his degree, Josh plans to serve the church through the academic study of theology to deepen its faith and faithfulness through researching, writing and teaching at the university/ seminary level.

PASTOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL - \$3,000

Dr. Steve Laufer partnered with a Baptist church in Udon Thani, Thailand and the greater Southeast Asian Christian community this past June to provide a 3-day Pastor's theological conference. The conference provided education and training pertaining to the biblical interpretation, ministry application and preaching of the first five books of the Old Testament. Travel expenses for pastors from Thailand and Laos to attend was entirely funded by a grant from the UBC Foundation.

MERCY TREE LUNCHESES - \$1,800

UBC hosts a local ministry called The Mercy Tree each Thursday for lunch. This is a feeding program with local homeless folks (12-24 people any given day). Aaron Glenn has developed a good relationship with the ministry leader, Gina Evans, and UBC has a dedicated group of 5-7 people who engage in this luncheon regularly. Aaron calls this a "ministry of presence" because volunteers and homeless clients sit and eat together and discuss important biblical and life themes. UBC Foundation will provide funding for lunches on Wednesdays.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP STAGE - \$4,500

Ben Sandstrom will be building a new stage set for the contemporary service to change up the visual aesthetic for worship. Ben has built all the previous sets and most current set by himself. The sets have to be transportable and able to set up in 10 minutes. It will be great to have something new to use in our worship services.

SPANISH SPEAKING INTERNS (SUMMER 2018) - \$3,000

Aaron Glenn identified two Spanish-speaking interns recommended through Baptist Student Ministries at UT Rio Grande Valley in McAllen with a geographical tie-in to our Buckner partnership. Each student received a stipend of \$1,000 with an additional \$100/week going to each host family to cover expenses. These college interns, Abel Santos and Gabriela Hernandez, helped UBC during VBS, Sports Camp, and Harvey Relief where they connected with Spanish-speaking individuals.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The Foundation held its 2nd annual Dine-Out-to-Donate event on May 21. With approximately nine local restaurants participating and a successful turnout, the Foundation raised over \$1,500.

The annual UBCF Golf Tournament will be held at Bay Oak Country Club on Monday, November 5, 2018 with a noon start time.

CRESCENDO INTERACTIVE

The Foundation is partnering with Crescendo Interactive to help launch the UBCF planned giving efforts. A new website is in the works and marketing materials will be created to educate UBC members regarding giving gifts through their estate plans.

Nominating Committee Report

2018 has been a busy and productive year for the nominating committee. We were tasked with filling twelve open positions. I am excited to announce that we have successfully filled nine of those positions to date. Our only outstanding openings are one for deacon nominating, one for the nominating committee, and one for assistant treasurer. We do have candidates considering for a few of those roles. We were able to fill all the other openings. Below you will find the list of candidates who have agreed to serve. It goes without saying that we are incredibly grateful for these people's willingness to serve, and we believe all will be a great benefit to assisting the church moving forward. It has been a pleasure serving on the nominating committee for the past three years, and I look forward to serving again in the future.

Regards,

Jason Bodie

EC Committee

Robbie Kimbrough

Trustees

Steve Raska

James Hamon

Keith Moore

Barbara Phillips

Foundation

Mary Ann Shallberg

Shawn Broddle

Alan Wylie



visit us at ubc.org

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH
16106 Middlebrook Dr Houston TX 77059
281.488.8517