

FOCUS!

JANUARY-APRIL 2017



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Focus Meeting — Sunday, June 4, 2017

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Senior Pastor

I'm sitting in my front office as I write this article and as I look around, I wonder how much a stranger could discern about me based on my office décor. There's certainly an eclectic mix of items: lots of books, records, art, photos, diplomas, coffee mugs, a few folding chairs, and my mini-fridge (just to name the obvious). And if you wanted to dig deeper into the meaning and significance of some of those items you'd discover that most all of them have stories, all of which would reveal a great deal about my personality, interests, and work. There's a baseball cap with a big 'P' on it. It was a gift from one of our ministry friends in Piñon, AZ in the Navajo Nation. There's a painting of Chinatown in the city of Bangkok that reminds me a lot of our Thai work and friends. One friend lives in that same area of Bangkok and serves his Chinese church and volunteers as a Gideon, distributing Bibles around the city. There's a pile of books sitting on my desk that I have good intentions of reading someday, but constantly seem to get bumped down the list due to more pressing work matters, which are represented by a couple of other piles of books on that same desk. Like I said, eclectic and revealing. I suspect the same could be said for most of us if a stranger were to walk into our places of work or our homes. The interior decoration of our spaces reveals something about the interior decoration of our hearts and lives.

The letters to the churches in Revelation served as a catalyst for us this past semester to consider how other "design" elements of our lives reveal the contents of our inner selves, both individually and church corporately. How do we decorate our lives? How do we decorate our church? Hopefully, a brief tour of our church would reveal our interest in serving our community, caring for and developing one another's families, investing in the development of churches around our country, and partnering with churches and ministries around the world to share the gospel of Jesus and advance the Kingdom of God. I hope it would reveal our commitment to walking and growing as disciples of Jesus in our personal lives, and as part of that effort, our discipline in study and love for the Bible as God's message of love to us. And more than anything, hopefully that tour would reveal an unconventional love resides in this church family and the hearts of its members.

For some, a look at personal interior design can be a time of spring cleaning. Our prayer is that some have and will continue to evaluate their life's investments and to work at placing matters of eternal significance ahead of those that are passing away. For some, that same process may be just a rearranging of furniture or pictures, a shifting of priorities to account for a new season of life. And for others still, perhaps the process is one of appreciating one's surroundings, being reminded of why the elements are there to being with, and recommitting to the calling of God on their lives. However, the metaphor of physical interior design connects to you and your inner, spiritual design, my hope and prayer are that you'll continue to give attention to how the outer design of your life reveals the nature of your heart.

STEVEN LAUFER SENIOR PASTOR

Most of our kids' informative years were spent running the hallways of UBC. Sometimes they were a little too comfortable and there are lots of Mobley kid stories to go around. Staci celebrated her birthday on multiple Sundays until Chris Haynes let her know that wasn't how birthdays worked. Josh and another of the preschoolers faced off on a regular basis over territorial toy concerns. Stephen was terrified of one of the girls in his preschool class. He would ask with fear in his voice if she was going to be there on that Saturday. And the one we get reminded of often is Fausto calling us while we were riding the bus back to the remote parking at the school to see if we forgot something......Josh. We understand how Joseph and Mary felt.

Several of our stories would have caused great concern for visitors or even members who are loosely connected. But for Diann and me, there was never a thought that we would leave the church. Looking back, I can see it is because we were family. We did life together. And when you do life together, it gets messy at times. You don't always get along. You don't always agree. Sometimes you wish you didn't love them so much. We were and continue to be blessed.

Our kids did more than survive at UBC, they thrived. They had their issues like any other kid raised in this century (or the last century, in their case), but people who were gifted by the Holy Spirit to work with kids and their parents poured their time and resources into our family. They prepared lessons every week, led in worship, taught RA's, drove vans to camps, herded kids through Bible Drill. And we tried to do the same with their families. We were blessed.

God's economy works. It doesn't guarantee the outcome, but it certainly increases the odds. The perfect environment with the perfect father wasn't enough for Adam and Eve. So stop listening to those voices that say you aren't prepared to teach, prepared to serve, or too tired to try. Continue to invest in the Kingdom. Your rate of return will always beat the stock market. And in the process, we will raise another generation of Christ followers who will, in turn, invest in the Kingdom with a group of people they will consider family. And on occasion, Fausto will get to call them to see if they forgot something, or someone. And they will be blessed.

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kid's Area Renovations

We are so excited to be in the final stages of the renovation of our Children's Ministry space. You may recall that we set out on a two part renovation plan in 2013. 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. During these discussions, we received a significant gift that provided the resources to begin the transition.

The congregation enthusiastically received the plan to relocate our children to the second floor of the Learning Center. The first phase was to renovate the current children's classrooms to provide meeting space for our adults. This project was completed in three phases to allow the children and adults to continue to meet during the construction. The adult space was completed in late 2014 and the children moved to the Learning Center occupying the space "as it was" until funds were available to begin the next part of the project.

In total, 265 families responded and gave \$600,000 to the project over two and a half years. Budget surpluses were used to provide an additional \$200,000.

The renovations included:

- 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.

Thanks to all who participated and made this possible. Generations to come will be blessed and enriched by the facilities and the ministries they facilitate.

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A few words from Karen Murphy, Associate Pastor of Children's Ministries:



We were challenged at the start of renovations to create walls in our halls that were both educational and inspirational. With a children's perspective in mind, we have taken the "Belonging, Preparing, and Serving" vision of our church and put that on the wall visually. Using an airplane, we've invited kids to join a spiritual journey of Serving. It starts at home and then they 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 imagine together as if they are in an airport and could go 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.

Architect Estate Update

A nonbinding arbitration occurred on March 30th. Unfortunately, and unbelievably, the court appointed estate lawyers were not prepared to agree to distributions of assets. The arbitration was productive in that one claimant withdrew, one subcontractor accepted a negotiated settlement with us, and the remaining parties are in communication on how to best proceed. Timeframe for a final settlement is still uncertain.

Personnel Updates

Faith@Home Coordinator

Moving forward, making changes, thinking outside the box....some of the many things I love about working at UBC. Over the past 13 years that I have been the Director of Weekday Ministries, I have become very involved in numerous ministries within our church.

One of these ministries that began about three years ago is Faith@Home. Faith@Home is a multifaceted ministry effort that exists to help people become intentional about building faith into everyday life. Our pastoral staff and our Executive Council see value in expanding this ministry to help meet the needs of the people in our church and our community. To support this growth, they are giving me the opportunity to expand my role at UBC to not only be the Director of Weekday Ministries, but to also be the Faith@Home Coordinator. With these added responsibilities, I will be able to coordinate with our pastors and associate pastors to organize events, workshops, and classes around Faith@Home themes...programs like "How to Have a Strong Marriage," "How to Help Your Child Grow in Their Faith," "How to Handle the Toddler Years," How to Handle the Teenage Years," and the list goes on and on.

This new position will take me away from Weekday Ministries in some ways, but I am happy to say that God went before us and prepared the way! Laura Davis has agreed to work with me and share the role of Director of Weekday Ministries. We both share a love and passion for preschoolers and their families!

As we move forward, make changes and truly think outside the box...we are seeking God to guide us each step of the way. This whole process has been taking shape for many months. God was shaping us, and we did not even realize it. He is an amazing God, and we will continue to seek Him as He guides us in the direction that He needs us to go.

Care Ministries

Apprentice Groups

To be a part of an Apprentice Group means you can share your story and hear others share their stories. You get the sense of a new way to experience God and to experience His power in your life while connecting with the church family across all age groups.

Over 300 participants in 25 groups read *The Good and Beautiful Life* for Apprentice Groups, Year 2. Participants were asked to read a chapter and do the related spiritual practices/disciplines. These practices are an opportunity to do something uncomfortable in daily life. For example, we were challenged to spend a full day without media, a full day without lying, a full day without worrying, and so on.

Another benefit of a group is the active discussions that bring moments of honesty...a safe place to say things like, "I don't feel God's presence," or "I don't know if He's with me or not."

Because the groups meet for an hour and a half, there is more opportunity for deeper discussion than would typically be practical on Sunday mornings.

Rick Carpenter shares two reasons why you should join Apprentice Groups next year.

Connections: the in-depth opportunity to experience community life and the transforming power of Christ in us.

Transformation: trusting God to transform us into His image. It's a process, it doesn't happen quickly, nor does it happen when a person is baptized or saved. That is the beginning point, but God's transformational power is experienced in community.

Will you join us next year for Apprentice Groups, Year 3 as, together, we study *The Good and Beautiful Community?*



"Your Serve" Ministry Report

For the past year, Your Serve has focused primarily on helping new members find a place of service at UBC. However, beginning in April, Your Serve expanded its focus to include all UBC members.

Your Serve is also conducting a survey in all adult WBS Groups to discover how many UBC members are currently serving in a UBC-related ministry. Members are being asked to list the UBC-related ministries in which they currently serve or have served during the past year. They are also being asked to list any place in the community, they volunteer in a service opportunity that is not directly affiliated with UBC. Additional data is being collected regarding the frequency of their service and the location of their service, i.e. on campus, community, city, and global. The survey will provide a baseline that will help measure the success of the Your Serve ministry as additional members find their place of service. The results of this survey will be collected and reported in the next edition of the Focus Book.

To learn more about Your Serve, go to ubc.org/your-serve-ministry. Randy Cox, Director of Leadership Development

Houston Welcomes Refugees

It's official, Houston is the most diverse city in America.

Houston Welcomes Refugees is an organization with the mission to mobilize the city of Houston to welcome refugees with compassion, honor, and hope as they resettle and start a new life here.

UBC hosted a luncheon to hear more from Houston Welcomes Refugees about what they are doing and how we can get involved.

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Carrie Gilder got involved with the Move-In team. She shares her story:

Today I participated as a member of a move-in team with Houston Welcomes Refugees. About a week ago, I received an email that they were going to be welcoming a refugee family from Iran and they needed a team to help with bringing in welcome boxes and food. Two of us signed up - via Signup Genius - to deliver welcome boxes. There were two others, a team leader and the "food guy" who picked up dinner for the family. Since the other welcome box volunteer lived close to where the welcome boxes are stored, she picked them up and I met the team at the apartment off Westheimer. This Is a family with 3 children, so there were more welcome boxes than usual. We carried everything inside and then got to work putting together lamps, stocking the pantry and washing and finding locations for the dishes, glasses, pots, pans and cooking utensils. Since the family arrives at the airport late this evening, we were not able to meet them, but we prayed over their home before we left. Everything took about 3 and a half hours, including drive time. I enjoyed making new friends and it was great to be part of what God is doing in Houston!





Buckner Spring Break Trip 2017

Over Spring Break, UBCers engaged in our second serving trip with the Buckner Family Hope Center in Penitas, TX (West of Mission). Thirty participants of all ages from UBC led business classes, canning classes, soccer camp, infant and toddler care, and a construction team helped a local family build their new house.

Each of these activities contributed towards Buckner's overall goal of transformational community development in a notoriously neglected and underserved population living in the "colonias" along our border.

One of the highlights of the week was working alongside Buckner personnel who are passionate about the community they serve. We learned about and discussed many of the systemic issues relating to poverty in the border region and had times to reflect on the church's response to these daunting needs. Additionally, we were able to wrestle theologically with issues firstgeneration immigrants are facing in this country.



The Bridge

The 9:30 WBS class, Believers' Odyssey, had the opportunity to help the Bridge a shelter for mothers and children who have survived domestic violence. The Seabrook Lucky Trails Marathon needed volunteers, and The Bridge was helping recruit for the event. Volunteers worked on food preparation and serving. From 6 am-3 pm, thirteen volunteers tag teamed to meet the need. The Bridge is a recipient of the proceeds from the event. It was a great experience, and the class is eager to help the Bridge again in various ways.

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Primetime Ministries

Primetimers On The Go

On January 27, sixteen Primetimers enjoyed a meal together at Pappas BBQ and attended a heartwarming play. The show, *Lost in Yonkers*, set in Yonkers, NY in 1942, was performed at College of the Mainland. A special point of interest for us was the Director of the play, Jim Hackett, son of our own Primetimers Marilyn and Jim Hackett. We all agreed Jim did a great job casting and directing this dramatic comedy.

On March 10, Primetimers had the great experience of volunteering in a soup kitchen at Star of Hope in Houston. Many Primetimers donated clothing, towels and sheets, diapers, and toiletry items or wrote notes of encouragement at the request of the staff at Star (Debbie Hampton's WBS class wrote over 70 cards!). When we arrived at Star, we were greeted warmly by the staff, and they expressed their thanks and appreciation.

Below are some of what the volunteers had to say:





"The need for funding is tremendous as we were told by the men's facility staff that they feed 300-400 men three meals a day. They asked us to bring as many towels as possible the next time we come. A GREAT MINISTRY. "

"What an awesome experience! I was quite impressed with those in charge of the kitchen. Everything was well planned and the food looked delicious. If the opportunity comes up again, be sure to go. I know I will!!"

"It was a rewarding experience to see how Christians step up to the plate to take care of our poor, homeless, mentally ill and abused but not neglected because of God's love for each of us."

"We had an interesting bus trip into parts of Houston we rarely visit. After the meal, we attended a chapel service. We were blessed by both the serving and the worship."

I was impressed with the careful handling of all the systems that the SOH had in place. I loved the hearts of the servers, the managers, and especially, the preacher at the chapel time."

I loved the patience of the ladies that let us invade their kitchen space. Loved the smiles on the faces of all the people we crossed paths with that day. My favorite was to hear the laughter of the little children and see the smiles on their precious faces."

Mens@UBC

Men's Ministry Launch

On February 11th, our adult ministry launched a new men's ministry initiative with an introductory breakfast. More than 80 men came out to enjoy some time together, eating good food, talking, and hearing about our plans for a growing men's ministry. Following up on this event, on April 22, our men's ministry held their first breakfast and workday. Guys came out and enjoyed a hearty breakfast before heading around the UBC campus for a variety of projects from clearing out closets and working in the community garden, to helping prepare the equipment in the Missions Training Center for the summer activities. Both events have been a great way to help start a new men's ministry at University Baptist Church.

Led by our Men's Ministry Advisory Council, this new ministry initiative exists to connect men at University Baptist Church and our Clear Lake community and engage them in belonging, preparing, and serving together. We want to find places and spaces for men to connect in ways that are unique to men, not contained just in the next Bible study, but finding ways for men to enjoy rolling up their sleeves and serving together, joining in activities, and seeing where they can find a renewed life with others. These are exciting days for Men@UBC, and we have a full plate for the rest of year.





Women's Ministries

Bible Studies

Many groups were offered for women at different times during the week. Studies on Tuesday mornings were led by Kathy Bailey (Hebrews), three Thursday morning groups were led by Jenny Verghese (Hebrews), Shirley Owen (Precepts Acts 2), and a large (super fun!) group for international women called Crossing Cultures. We had two groups on Wednesday evenings led by Holly Sincox (Ephesians) and Kelsea Svochak (Embrace Grace - a wonderful group for young, single, pregnant women). There are three groups for women on Sunday mornings led by Pamm Muzslay (Second Wind, 9:30), Angie Reeves (Lydia Group for working women, 11:00), and Debbie Hampton (Journey to Joy, 11:00). There are also several groups that meet in homes during the week. For more information visit UBC.org/women/groups.

Working Women's Fellowship (WWF)

As women, we are pulled in many different directions, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the demands of work, family and home life. WWF hopes to empower, equip and enable women from all walks of life to network and connect in genuine relationships. We hope to provide mutual support to live out our faith in our working environments and community and to encourage one another through the challenges we face in our careers, families, and ministries.

Through WWF, several have made invaluable connections with other women, connections that have enriched their lives tremendously. Bay Oaks Country Club hosts our monthly lunches and dinners on the first Thursday of every other month. For details visit UBC.org/women/events.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat took place at Camp Allen in Navasota, and we dived into the Psalms with a Lavender theme! We rode horses, studied scripture, enjoyed a campfire, delicious meals, hiking trails, a service project, and free time relaxing with friends. Many thanks go to the women's ministry events team led by Julie Ranna, Jenny Verghese and Sara Henderson for providing worship music. Thanks also to our own Dorothy Mable, Mary Michele Wilson and Candace Griffithe for sharing their personal and inspiring testimonies.

A special moment happened when a woman was unable to attend at the last minute due to a personal crisis. We all prayed for her in groups, wrote notes and prayers to her, and collected enough money for her to buy a stroller needed for her new baby.

Plan to join us next year at Camp Allen for another wonderful, relaxing and meaningful time away with friends.





Student Ministries

VISION Weekend

I Declare the Right to do Anything for the Lord

Vision Weekend is designed to help students reflect, worship, grow, and serve. This year's speaker talked about "renovating our space," building on last year's theme of Creating Space for God. What will students do with the space they have? How will they avoid letting the world decorate and design the space for them?

Rachel shares part of her story and how she declared the right to do anything for the Lord:

The very last sermon of the weekend hit my heart hard. The pastor challenged us with a question, and that night, along with every other student in the room, I made a declaration: "I declare the right to do anything for the Kingdom of God." I have the right to do anything for the kingdom of God. This phrase had an incredible amount of meaning for me because of a conviction that God put on my heart that previous summer at Silvercliff (the UBC youth summer camp in Colorado). I won't go into all the details, but I strongly felt that God was calling me to be a missionary.



The thought of this terrified me because I had never thought of something like that. I thought I had my life together and finally figured out, but God had an entirely different plan and turned my world upside down.

I know without a doubt that this is what God is calling me to do because of the overwhelming peace I have about it, but nonetheless, doubt had started to creep in because of all the details and worries, etc. Standing in the UBC Chapel, declaring the right to do anything for the kingdom of God, gave me a sense of empowerment beyond words. I know the road will be hard, and I will have to face many difficulties, but God will be with me every step of the way and if God is for me, who can be against me?

Being a high school student is full of busyness, stress and the pressure to make decisions about the future. Sara shares how God spoke to her through vision about her future:

This Vision the "theme" was about renovating your new-found space that you've made in your life. Being a junior, college is constantly on my mind. When am I going to take my SATs, am in the Top 10%, am I going to get a scholarship, which school am I going to go to, what major am I going to choose, what do I want to do with my life, and the list just goes on and on. During this weekend, I brought up the fears and worries that I had, and our group leader, who's in college, told us that she still doesn't know what she wants to do, and she's a senior in college. After hearing those words, it churned something in my heart/brain/soul. In church, we constantly hear that God is the one thing we can depend on, but it wasn't until that moment that it clicked to me that there are no guarantees in life when you're looking to the world for answers. In fact, IT IS a guarantee that this world DOES NOT offer guarantees.

Once coming home from Vision my prayer to God was that I look to him. "For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good, not disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11.

I've known this verse my whole life but through Vision I saw this verse in a different way. I saw it as filling my space that I've created with a guarantee that God has a plan for my life and if I keep true to that knowledge, there is no need to fear or worry, because my assurance is placed in him. This is when I truly saw God as the "stronghold of my life," Psalm 27:1.

To read more of Rachel and Sara's story, visit ubc.org/ubc-students/.

Renovating Your Space: Student Apprentice Groups

Building on the Vision theme, high school students read *Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard. We can do lots of good things and put paint on the house, but when we get inside and rip out walls and pull down the sheetrock, that's where change happens. If we live out of those walls, we live out of a deep relationship with God.

"I participate in Apprentice Groups because I believe it is important to surround myself with a community of believers who are intentionally seeking God's direction and developing a relationship with Him. Being a part of these groups is also a way that I am challenged weekly with questions about my faith and helps me to grow stronger in my walk with God. It gives me the confidence to share His word and love with everyone around me." – Rachel

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High school students lead middle school apprentice groups.

Rachel shares her story of leading this year:

I was blessed to be given the same group last year and this year, so I was able to develop lasting relationships with the girls and get to know them throughout their 7th and 8th grade years. I have always been very passionate about my faith, so I have wanted to try teaching, but teaching a group has never been something that comes naturally to me or is easy. However, I realized that teaching a group, even though I was teaching the lesson physically, it was really about God speaking to them and touching their hearts, so I didn't have to worry about "saying everything right." Teaching those girls has been an amazing experience because I have gotten to fellowship with them about displaying their faith in everyday life and I have gotten to learn about their daily struggles and encourage them to keep imitating and focusing on Christ during a stressful and hectic life. Not only was teaching a blessing for me because I was able to meet new people and share my faith, but the girls themselves and their perspectives were also a huge blessing to me. I would never have thought I could learn so much from people younger than me, but this group of girls proved me wrong, and I am so glad.

Sara also shares about why she took a step of faith to invest in others:

This is such a unique experience and opportunity. There are so many things I did in middle school that I truly regret and I wish I had a Christian lady in my life to give me advice, because I was turning to people who didn't have the same values and beliefs I did, and it put a strain on my relationship with God for a long time. This is why I wanted to do this program, to help someone not make the same mistakes and hurt the way I did, especially when there's so much that can happen in those years that can harden your heart to God.



Children's Ministries

Bible Drill

Bible Drill is an important part of the Spring Semester. It's not just about learning to maneuver and work through the Bible, it's about commitment. We had a great group of kids that followed through, even when it got hard, and finished Bible Drill. Six took part in the Church Drill with three qualifying for Association and State Drill!

STATE DRILL
Tallowood BC, Houston
April 7, 2017

Tucker Padron - State Winner Good Anabelle McDonald - State Winner Superior Haley Teutsch - State Winner Perfect

We are proud of each one of them!

CHURCH DRILL March 19, 2017

Grant Bahnsen
Barrett Brummett
Sophia Mitzner
Tucker Padron
Anabelle McDonald
Haley Teutsch

ASSOCIATION DRILL South Main BC, Pasadena March 26, 2017

Tucker Padron Anabelle McDonald Haley Teutsch



Royal Ambassadors (RA's)

Karen, UBC's Associate Pastor of Children's Ministries, recently joined an RA prayer session and said, "Our boys are learning how to pray." Not only were their prayer requests intentional, but most of the boys "popcorn prayed" for each other and for the world.

This spring the average weekly attendance for RA's has been about 30 boys ranging in age from 1st to 11th grade. Three adult workers support the ministry along with 13 youth leaders (grades 7-11). We are grateful for the willingness of the youth leaders to invest their time each week working with the young men.

In January, 10 boys and girls participated in the annual UBC Pinewood Derby race with many family members and friends on hand to cheer them on. The Derby is a fun activity that encourages the participants to spend time with adult family members or family friends to work on building and fine-tuning their cars. In February, Kyle Wilson and Garet Robinson talked with the RA's about several of UBC's mission trips, while Aaron Glenn was our March guest speaking about Indian culture and faith. David Mobley joined us in April, sharing with the boys about the plight of Syrian refugees and a trip that he took to Germany to work alongside German church members who were ministering to refugees in the city of Berlin. The RA's were given a challenge to be Christ's hands and feet at school by being friendly to someone that seems not to have friends.

Over spring break, two RA families participated in UBC's Buckner Spring Break Mission Trip, with more families planning to participate in UBC mission trips this summer. As in previous years, RA families that are unable to travel on the actual mission trips will be encouraged to help locally in Navajo trip preparation such as with van pick-up, clean-up, and return as well as partnering in prayer for those on the trips.

Girls In Action (GA's)

Our Girls In Action (GA's) began in January with the twelve week study My Big-Screen Adventure: Showing Jesus Around the World. We ended the study by showing the movie The Story of Jesus for Children on the Wednesday before Easter. The girls were encouraged to bring friends to watch the movie, and about 50 GA's and friends came to see it. And YES, we had a little excitement while popping popcorn and had our first churchwide "fire drill!"

The GA's were busy putting their faith into action through several other projects as well. We volunteered on a Saturday morning at the Mission Centers of Houston where the GA's bagged rice, filled bags of food for the elderly and sorted clothes. We collected clothing to donate to the Mission Centers. The GA's also provided crafts and cookie decorating at the UBC preschool Springtacular.



Preschool Ministries

Mission Friends

Preschoolers who attended Mission Friends this spring learned about missionaries and how they told others about Jesus in exciting classes lead by Kirk Heuiser, Melanie Cureton, Stephen Gardner, Paige Richeson, and Emily Skeeter.

Guatemala brought information of volcanoes and missionaries serving food to different villages and teaching children how to read. We played Guatemalan games of street soccer and marbles.

Disaster relief was the focus on our Virginia missionaries. We learned the importance of people helping others during floods, fire, and hurricanes and asking God to supply all their needs. We can certainly apply this in our hometown.

We then studied about a Cowboy Church in Arizona. Our end of year party was celebrated "cowboy style" with horses made from pool noodles.

Mission Friends resumes September 13 for children entering Pre-K and Kindergarten (must be 4 by September 1).

RAHM Bargain Sale

Right at Home Moms held their annual Bargain Sale of gently used baby items on Saturday, March 25. Filling the chapel and fellowship hall, a new Market venue was added and a total of 32 booths sold goods such as Avon, devotional books, Juice Plus, LuLaRoe, Mary Kay, Matilda Jane, Scentsy, Senegence Cosmetics, Thirty-One, Usborne books, Wildtree, jewelry, crafts, homemade soaps and lotions. Sunday, our Bake Sale was also a success with homemade candy, cookies, cupcakes and other goodies. A huge thank you to Jill Tatum, our sale coordinator, who collects items throughout the year and organizes the vendors and merchandise.

Over \$2500 was raised to help defray the costs for the women in the RAHM Bible study. The money goes toward Kingdom Care and Bible study materials. RAHM 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.

Our summer session begins June 21, and the study is *Kingdom Woman* by Tony Evans, led by Mary Michele Wilson. We'd love to have you join us!

Please register at www.ubc.org/right-at-home-moms/.

Easter Springtacular

Easter Springtacular was a morning full of smiles, laughter, and family. The weather made the day, April 1, just about perfect! Fun games and activities made up a lawn full of happy kids and smiling parents, and in case you missed it, here's a first-hand look at the day's events.

The petting zoo is always full. Some kids chase fearlessly after the chicken and rabbits. While another little one tentatively reaches towards the turtle her dad holds, unsure if she should touch it or retreat quickly. This a spot for the most adorable pictures, tiny animals and humans together.

The Bunny Hop sack relay starts slow but the volunteers helping with the game are persistent, and soon kids are racing against one another. Careful balance is important for the Egg Relay on top of your head. Walk slowly and turn around the cone for the Spoon Relay. Hint: if you hold the egg, it won't ever drop from the spoon!

Face painting is always a popular stop. Kid's running around UBC grounds can be seen with butterflies, rabbits, and other fun designs on their faces.

The Girls in Action (GA's) always provide a craft and cookie decorating for our preschoolers. Soon, these preschoolers may become a GA's or an RA's and help at this event learning to serve others.

In the middle of the action, there is a prayer tent. Parents and grandparents come, and it is a special moment to be able to pray over the families and their lives.

Egg hunts may be the most anticipated part of the whole day. Divided by age groups, infants through one year are first up. Yes, this is as cute as you're imagining! Parents bring eggs to the babies who don't crawl yet, mostly so they can chew on them. The babies that can crawl or walk, toddle their way to the colorful eggs. Next, comes the two and three year olds. They are a little faster and as excited as can be. Many stop to open the eggs and see what's inside, not realizing they are allowed to gather more. The last group is four years – Kindergarten. This is over before you can blink! They are fast and determined to get as many eggs as possible. Who got the golden egg with a surprise inside?

Over 650 people were on our campus enjoying free hot dogs, popcorn, and fellowship with one another. Thank you to all who came. We love beginning the Easter season with a morning of celebration and fun! Thank you to all the volunteers – we couldn't do it without you. You make the morning extra special for the parents and kids!











Family Pizza Night

Over 300 hundred pieces of art were on display for families and friends!

Every year we celebrate Family Pizza Night and every year we thoroughly enjoy our time with the children, their extended family, and alumni!





Science Class

Our preschoolers learned about the life cycle of the butterfly in Science class from their Science teacher, Ms. Kasie.

We watched the metamorphosis from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, and then the whole school got to watch as we released the butterflies!

Such an amazing example of God's creativity in creation.



Vision Weekend

Vision 2017.....a wonderful weekend for our Students! One of my favorite things to do is to see our UBC students work on the playground that they once played on as UBC Weekday preschoolers.





Monthly Missions

Our sweet preschoolers made 45 Valentines for Seniors at Brookdale Senior Living!! We are learning how to show Christ's love to others!

Our preschoolers have partnered with the UBC Military Ministry to make cards for the patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Parents and children had the opportunity to make the cards together....to pray for our troops, and to pray for those recovering in the hospital.

Flowering of the Cross

Our Weekday preschoolers took an old rugged cross and turned it into a beautiful cross, one flower at a time.

This cross is symbolic of the grace that we are offered and the true beauty of our hope in Christ!

After all the preschoolers left, some sweet ladies from our church, led by Jill Tatum, took the flowers and created individual bouquets that were delivered by our deacons to the widows of our church.



Worship Ministries

Traditional Worship

WORDS FROM GUY CAGLE

Interim Pastor of Worship Ministries, Guy Cagle, has been with UBC since January. He shares some of his thoughts about the year thus far:

"It has been an incredible time of blessing and healing for my family and me. To see the congregation come and experience worship through hymnody, through choral singing and instrumental playing has been incredible. To be a part of a staff that is engaging in how to share the light, to experience their creativity, their love for people; to embrace those that come through the doors and those in the city. My time has been a great time; it has been a great season in our life. However long that season lasts, we are excited and rejoice in it. Thank you."

SPRING SEMESTER

The music ministry has had a busy Spring semester leading the congregation in worship each week. Our interim music pastor, Guy Cagle, is doing an excellent job of directing the choir in rehearsals and in developing worship opportunities for the congregation on Sunday mornings. Guy and the choir and orchestra put together a wonderful worship experience for both Palm Sunday and Easter. Under the direction of Larinda Horan, Chamber Singers has continued to meet and sing during worship and in the Good Friday service. UBC is so grateful for Guy and Larinda, for their leadership, vision, and dedication to our music ministry during this interim period.





Contemporary Worship

Ben and Sound of Light have been hard at work leading worship for various ministries and organizations. Being a part of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and supporting Coach David Ward is always an honor and joy. The event was a great success this year, and several made decisions for Christ that night. Ben, Aaron Colunga and the team hosted a Maundy Thursday service for 35 people. It was a time of worship and communion together while building community and having sweet fellowship. Besides events, every week Sound of Light continues to grow and cultivate new experiences through worship at UBC.



Communications Team

UBC's communication team has been busy this spring with several large projects and the addition of a new team member. We said goodbye to Courtney Barringer who took a position at USRA after working with us for several years and then said hello to Johanna Eckenrode, a Baylor grad, and UBC's new communications specialist. Johanna has a BA in marketing with an emphasis in marketing for nonprofits. Her ability to combine a passion for helping nonprofits use social media effectively and a strong Christian walk have already made her a great fit both on our team and at UBC. Be sure to say hi and welcome to Johanna.



As a part of our "spring cleaning" efforts, the communication team has been working with the rest of the UBC staff to redesign our worship bulletin and UBC's website. The new worship bulletin will feature a slightly different but more contemporary, streamlined style that will also be more cost effective. We plan to launch the new website on June 19, the week after VBS. The new design will also be noticeably different both in design and functionality. We will keep you up-to-date with new features and ways to connect, participate and give more effectively as we serve God together here at UBC.

Attendance Report

WORSHIP AVERAGES						
9:30 11:00 Totals						
Jan-Apr 2016	666	363	1029			
Jan-Apr 2017	617	397	1014			

ADULT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS				
Enrolled Average Attended				
Jan-Apr 2016	812	404		
Jan-Apr 2017	788	392		

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS			
Enrolled Average Attended			
Jan-Apr 2016	436	199	
Jan-Apr 2017	571	203	

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS			
Enrolled Average Attended			
Jan-Apr 2016	416	152	
Jan-Apr 2017	409	150	

STUDENT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS			
Enrolled Average Attended			
Jan-Apr 2016	318	135	
Jan-Apr 2017	340	142	

CHILDREN'S AVG.	JAN-APR 2017
Chorus Kids Choir	65
Handbells	11
Bible Blast/Drill	35
Royal Ambassadors (RA's)	30
Girls In Action (GA's)	34
Pinewood Derby	56+
Spring Concerts	200+

JAN-APR 2017	
45	
25	
193	
100	
82	
32	

OTHER ORG AVG. JAN-	APR 2017
YA Chili, Dip & Dessert Showdown	30
Women's Retreat	65
Senior Adult Workshop	33
Men's Workday	62

PRESCHOOL AVG. JAN	-APR 2017
Praise Kids Choirs	34
Mission Friends	18
Right At Home Moms (RAHM)	18
RAHM Bargain Sale & Market	300+
Springtacular Easter Event	675+
Egg-Stuffing Event	20

Financial Report

University Baptist Church 7 Months October 2016 to April 2017 (58%)

	Revenue and Expenditures (a)	Actual (b)	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
General Contributions	\$2,080,377	\$2,080,377			
Budget Contributions	\$26,190				
Other Income	\$69,389	\$69,389			
Total Revenue	\$2,175,956	\$2,149,765			
Missions Ministry	\$208,038	\$208,038	\$365,000	\$156,962	57.00%
Communications Ministry	\$54,030	\$54,030	\$104,000	\$49,970	51.95%
Serving Ministries	\$8,655	\$6,961	\$25,500	\$18,539	27.30%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$32,699	\$29,347	\$56,300	\$26,953	52.13%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$12,353	\$12,353	\$24,000	\$11,647	51.47%
Adult Ministry	\$29,165	\$27,205	\$82,500	\$55,295	32.98%
Student Ministry	\$7,274	(\$1,211)	\$52,000	\$53,211	(2.33%)
Children Ministry	(\$8,766)	(\$17,345)	\$38,500	\$55,845	(45.05%)
Preschool Ministry	\$7,635	\$7,635	\$22,600	\$14,965	33.78%
Total Ministry	\$351,084	\$327,013	\$770,400	\$443,387	42.45%
Administration	\$99,639	\$97,519	\$185,950	\$88,431	52.44%
Personnel	\$1,172,762	\$1,172,762	\$2,202,000	\$1,029,238	53.26%
Total Administration	\$1,272,401	\$1,270,281	\$2,387,950	\$1,117,669	53.20%
Facility	\$270,465	\$270,465	\$491,650	\$221,185	55.01%
Capital Improvements	\$73,932	\$73,932	\$0	(\$73,932)	
Total Facility & CP & Funding	\$344,397	\$344,397	\$491,650	\$147,253	70.05%
Total Expenditures	\$1,967,881	\$1,941,691	\$3,650,000	\$1,708,309	53.20%
Net Income	\$208,075	\$208,075			
	Begin	Activity	End		
Designated Funds (c)	\$512,843	(\$77,989)	\$434,855		
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$51,958	\$0	\$51,958		
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000		
Unrestricted Funds		_	\$289,970		
Total Cash & Investments		-	\$1,276,782		
Current Other Assets (d)			\$559		
Current Liabilities			\$81,895		
Mortgage			\$0		

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes

- a) "Revenues and Expenditures" lists ministry specific budget contributions made through the year under Revenues and shows actual gross expenditures for each ministry area.
- b) "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."
- c) Designated Funds "Activity" includes expenses for children area remodel.
- d) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable.

Membership Report

UBC Membership Additions January-April 2017

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Harris Broddle
- Kaimi Evans
- Keegan Glenn
- Taylor Hargrave
- Randy Nelson
- Jacob Reeder
- Victoria Vitovsky

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

• Laure C. Cooley

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Paul Cooley
- Becky Smith
- Brad Smith
- John V. Vitovsky
- Kristie Vitovsky

UBC Membership Deletions January-April 2017

By Letter

- Amber Brown
- Jeff Brown
- Kinley Chapa
- Phil Covington
- Doug Deason
- Joy Deason
- Eric Givens
- Leslie Kraus
- Martha Ann McDade
- Matt Marsh
- Trudy Marsh
- Eric Patenaude
- Erica Patenaude
- Kimberly Patenaude
- Jonathan Womack
- Rachael Womack

By Erasure

- Donald A. Barron
- Donna Barron
- Dianne Fightmaster
- Tom Fightmaster

By Death

- Joyce Bowman
- Debbie Henderson
- · George B. Rush, Sr.

Administrative Report

Focus Meeting Minutes January 29, 2017

The Focus Meeting was held in the Great Room at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 67 people in attendance.

The Senior Pastor's Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Executive Director's Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Facility Updates Report is on pages 6 - 7 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

Your Serve Ministry Report is on page 7 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Serving Ministries Report is on pages 8 - 11 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Adult Ministries Report is on page 12 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Primetime Ministries Report is on page 12 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Women's Ministries Report is on pages 13 - 14 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Young Adult Ministries Report is on page 15 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Student Ministries Report is on page 16 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 17 - 18 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on page 19 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on pages 20 - 21 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Fall Festival Report is on pages 22 - 23 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 24 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Attendance Report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship are found on page 25 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Financial Report is on page 26 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

A full report of the membership changes during the period September - December, 2016 is on page 27 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017. During that period, 11 were received by baptism; 6 by letter; and 16 by statement.

Requests for letters

- · Darline Archer
- · George F. Archer
- Ann Flanagan
- Sonne L. Hooper
- David Le
- Anthony Skach

By Erasure

- Phillip Covington III
- Andrew Davis
- Craig Davis
- Debra Davis
- Nathan Davis
- Paul Wayne Inbody III
- Robert Dale McIlrath
- Wayne O'Quin
- Andrew Schaafs
- Sarah Schaafs

Bv Death

· Steve Wright

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Stuart Skeeter 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 Tamara Parks.

The minutes of the September 27, 2016 Focus Meeting is on pages 28 - 29 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion by Kirk Heuiser and a second by Wayne Hale. Words of gratitude were written to UBC by Matt & Trudy Marsh and Karen Murphy on page 30 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The Trustee's Report is on page 31 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

The UBC Foundation Report is on page 31 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

A recommendation came from the Nominating Committee for the following individuals to serve on Worship Pastor Search Task Force team:

Terry Reeves - Chair, Choir Leadership
Cory Thompson - Choir Member
Melody Macaulay - Congregation
Audra Smith - Handbells

No motion is needed since this a recommendation by a committee. Karol Peters seconded the recommendation and they were approved by voice vote. The bios of these individuals are on pages 32 – 33 of the Book of Reports dated January 29, 2017.

Dr. Laufer asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was given by Wayne Hale and a second by Bruce Blazine.

Dr. Laufer closed the meeting with a prayer.

Virginia Thomas Church Secretary

Worship Pastor Search Task Force

The worship pastor task force has met several times since its formation in January. A list of qualifications was decided upon before the job opening was posted in several locations. Many resumes have been received. A questionnaire seeking additional information was developed and sent to applicants who met the qualifications and who seemed to be a potential fit for UBC. The task force is continuing to seek the Spirit's guidance as they meet with these highly qualified candidates.

Laura Ozinga

UBC Foundation

The first quarter of 2017 was a productive time for the UBC Foundation. Discussion continued about the 5-Year plan in order to prioritize the Foundation's goals. An evening board retreat was held in March to develop board camaraderie and to engage in planning of a new yearly event, Dine Out to Donate, while also emphasizing the importance of planned giving as an immediate goal of the Foundation.

The 5-Year plan sets out goals and strategies for increasing our financial support for UBC missions and ministries by ten percent per year while increasing the Foundation's endowment by thirty percent. In an effort achieve these goals, it includes the development of more fundraising events to be added to the Foundation's yearly calendar. In addition, the plan also allows for raising future dollars through the development of a planned giving program.

The Board is enthusiastic about our inaugural event, Dine Out to Donate, which will raise money for student scholarships, missions and ministries that the Foundation supports. On May 22, approximately ten restaurants will be participating in various degrees to allow a portion of meal sales to go to the UBC Foundation. We hope to build on the participation of restaurants in the years to come and anticipate a successful event.

Looking toward the future, the Foundation board is committed to beginning an organized planned giving program. Planned giving is the term used to describe giving to foundations, universities, and other non-profits through a donor's estate plans, including wills, charitable trusts, gift annuities, insurance policies, and other means. Currently, the Foundation is gathering information from outside companies to assist us in this effort and having the companies make presentations to the board members to see which one might be the best fit for our goals. In the near future, the Foundation hopes to also include specific planned giving information on our website.

The UBC Foundation continues to strive to make an impact in current missions ministries while also planning for the future. Please join us by considering a current gift to the Foundation or a future gift through your estate plan. With successful planning, the Foundation anticipates substantial growth in the years to come.

Beginning Balance	Frost Bank				¢	25 552 4
	Baptist Foundation of Texas				\$ \$	25,552.13 180,690.10
	buptist roundation or rexus				Ψ	100,030.10
Activities						
	Frost Bank					
	Deposit					
4011 Foundation Contributions	4.24	General/ UBC Check 87005	\$	100.00		
					\$	100.0
	Withdraw				Ş	100.0
			ć			
			\$ \$	-	\$	-
.030 Foundation Invest Earnings	Baptist Foundation of Texas Net Interest Inc		¢	0.43		
030 Foundation Invest Earnings	Investment Income		\$ \$	130.61		
4030 Fouridation invest Lamings	Admin Fees		Ą	130.01		
	Realized Gain/Loss					
1036 Foundation Unrealized Gains/Losses	Change in Market Value		\$	1,715.48	\$	1,846.5
Ending Balance as of Nov 2016						
	Frost Bank				\$	25,652.1
	Baptist Foundation of Texas				\$	182,536.6

Mission House Recommendation

UBC purchased the original Mission House in 1999 in the El Lago subdivision. A group of dedicated lay people maintained the house and readied it for new arrivals. Over time the staffing of the hospitality team dwindled and in 2014 the Mission Network Council recommended and the church approved the sale of the house and purchased a town home significantly lowering the maintenance needs.

Our mission house ministry served our young missionary families well through many years. As our missionary families matured, their need for furloughs changed and as their families disbursed from this area, they traveled to other locations. Our current ministry families are taking on new paradigms and seem to have less need for extended housing.

The following comes from the Serving Office and the Mission Network Council and has been endorsed by the primary donors of the original mission house purchase, Executive Council and Trustees:

<u>Summary:</u> After prayer, discussion, and careful consideration the Mission Network Council is proposing that we sell the church-owned townhouse that has been used as a missionary residence. We have several reasons for coming to this recommendation:

- Mission need Missionaries associated and/or identified with UBC are in almost all cases related to UBC through shared history (Johnson, Beaver, Mobley, Savage, Edwards, etc) and with the exception of the Beavers, do not need a residence when visiting Clear Lake because they prefer to stay with relatives and they are usually "just passing through" without taking long furloughs as was more common in past generations.
- Mission partnerships Due to an existent and ongoing relationship with various missionaries and agencies across an interdenominational spectrum, UBC missions has not maintained a strong denominational (Baptist) identity when it comes to networking with Baptist sending agencies like the International Mission Board or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. UBC is a top financial giver to those Baptist partners, but our missionary partnership and involvement in recent years has come through direct and personal contacts without needing to rely on Baptist agencies to connect us with missionaries.

• Mission strategy – It is the strategy of the Serving Pastor and the MNC to have fewer, but deeper (more involved) partnerships. Opening a "missionary house" to any missionary who needs a place to stay does not contribute to the "fewer but deeper" philosophy for partnership.

Arguably, offering a missionary residence is a legitimate ministry to a missionary family who needs it, but that type of ministry would make more sense at a church that has a much higher denominational identity and wants to support the denominational efforts by supporting the missionaries of the denomination.

- Mission budget The MNC spent \$12,000 in FY 2015-2016 maintaining the UBC-owned townhouse and paying associational fees. 2015-2016 might have been an unusually expensive year, but the ebb and flow of house-maintenance will inevitably force us to pay for larger repairs again in the future when we are forced to replace the air-conditioning unit, the roof, etc. The \$12,000 that is budgeted each year through the UBC Serving Office would be more strategically budgeted to support one of our church-planters or other partners.
- Pavilion strategy Since inception, the pavilion was designed as a gift to the community. Since the Serving office will coordinate the scheduling and outreach efforts of the Pavilion it is consistent with the desire for evangelistic outreach efforts of the missionary-house-ministry. The completion of the Pavilion also lines up with serving ministry goals because it will contribute to new and ongoing outreach efforts at UBC among internationals and others in our surrounding community.

<u>Proposal:</u> The Mission Network Council and the Pastor of Serving Ministries recommends the sale of the mission house and utilize the proceeds to fund the Mission Network Council projects that are in arrears and the remainder to go towards completion of the Pavilion.

