



LEADING
PEOPLE
to FIND *and*
FOLLOW
Jesus

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SENIOR PASTOR

I've heard it said before that most Senior Pastors overestimate what they can accomplish in their first three years, and they underestimate what they can do in their next three years. As I embark on my fourth year at Grace Chapel, I do not want to miss what God could potentially do here because of a lack of faith or obedience.

William Carey, who is considered the "Father of Missions," said it well – "We must expect great things from God; attempt great things for God. Together, we must deepen our faith in God and show it in our radical obedience to fulfill the great commission" (Matthew 28:19–20). I believe God has entrusted us to dream and work diligently for His glory at Grace Chapel.



Josh Weidmann
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LOOKING BACK

Last year, we set out to pursue the next mountain peak in revitalizing our church and renewing our reach in South Denver. Through the faith and obedience of our staff, Elders, Deacons, and congregation, I have seen great impact and change in the following areas:

Our Weekend Service has become more effective. We have reached more people with the truth of God's Word and have welcomed more people into a Christ-centered environment. There is a new vibrancy on our campus on the weekend that has created momentum for the church.

Our staff culture is healthier. We have grown into a fun and productive team. Key players have brought a new level of leadership while fostering a "family feel" on staff.

Our intentionality to help people connect has improved. We added Connections staff to help "close the back door," and by doing so, we launched a Connect Card that has had over 7,000 touches in 15 months. We also started the Grace Orientation (GO) class to help better assimilate new people into our culture, of which over 125 people have attended.

The business of the church and the back office is stronger. We went from losing over \$240,000 a year to now being in the black. We found better ways to track, manage, and spend our funds. We also paid off our mortgage and are debt-free!

Our local ministry impact deepened. With the Women's Shelter Network, Refugee Ministry, and the seeds of an "Unleashed Ministry," we have grown more intentional in our local outreach.

We focused our outreach strategies. We went from supporting a multitude of ministries to being more focused in supporting a few efforts. We strengthened our ministry partnerships globally by choosing wisely in what we will engage.

REVIEW OF LAST YEAR'S FOCUSES

One year ago, we collectively agreed that we needed to put forth effort in three major categories:

Linking Arms. We committed to strengthen our connection pathway into the church and double the number of community groups. We have done this and will continue to work to strengthen our small group strategy.

Looking Forward. We committed to have a plan for our facility and for maximizing our assets. We have begun preliminary scenarios for how to develop our property further.

Loving Intently. We committed to increase our outreach to the local community and to begin building the foundation for a biblical counseling center. This year, The Hope of Denver Counseling, opened July 25.

God is so faithful. I am in awe of what He has done, and I look with great expectation toward what He will do in the years to come. May we continue to be a Christ-centered church, always prayerful and passionately leading people to find and follow Jesus.

You are loved!

TEACHING

IN THE LAST YEAR



CHURCH OPERATIONS



Alex Zakroff is thrilled to have joined the Grace Chapel staff in January 2018 after a long career with Boeing-subsiary, Jeppesen, and a brief stint with Chick-fil-A. He is VERY happily married to his wife, Kimberlie, and together they have three teenage sons. Alex enjoys golfing, music, spending time with family, and eating at Chick-fil-A.

Alex Zakroff, Church
Operations Pastor
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It has been an honor and pleasure to join the Grace Chapel community and serve on staff since January 2018. In leading church operations, I have the privilege of working with our pastors, ministry leaders, and support staff to facilitate the various ministries of Grace Chapel. We are so encouraged by God's faithfulness and what He is doing within and through the people He has brought to be a part of the Grace family. As I reflect on my first several months, I can summarize my impression of our "operational" health by simply saying we have much to be grateful for and to do! A look into our financials later in this report will reveal several very encouraging themes including:

Paying off our mortgage early in the year so we are now DEBT FREE!

Finishing our 2017–2018 fiscal year in the black, creating a solid financial foundation from which to grow.

Average adult worship attendance has continued to increase.

Replenished our cash reserves after paying off the mortgage.

We are so grateful to God for His continued faithfulness and for providing the wisdom behind the stewardship decisions made by our ministry leaders over the last several years.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking forward, we still have much work to do together in leading people to find and follow Jesus. Our ministry teams are placing even greater emphasis on prayer and seeking God's direction for Grace Chapel. Our desire is to see God trusting us enough to bring more and more people—both Christians and non-Christians—across our paths and into a deeper relationship with Christ. Healthy things grow. Toward that end, we have identified four areas of focus for the next 18–24 months which we believe will lead toward spiritual and community growth:

Exceptional Weekend Experience: Increasing the excellence and impact of our worship environments.

Life Event Care and Discipleship: Becoming better equipped to meet people where they are.

Growing Leaders and Connecting People: Growing leadership capacity and community involvement.

Leading People to Find Jesus: Becoming more intentional about reaching people with the grace and hope of Jesus.

We are so looking forward to seeing what God is going to do this coming year!

KIDS



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Jamie Tressen lives in Parker with his wife, Melissa, and their three kids, Jazmin, Darius, and Nathaniel. He loves Jesus, his family, eating good food, and watching NHL Hockey!

Jamie Tressen, Kids Pastor
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Our vision at GCKids is to help kids develop and understand a relationship with Jesus. It's always fun to reflect back on a year of ministry to see all God has done through our staff, and our amazing volunteer leaders, to help kids take steps in their faith journey. Some highlights from this year include:

This year, we have been blessed to hire Kelli Snyder and Kelly Blair to lead our Preschool Department. Additionally, Brittany Conklin recently joined our team and will lead our Elementary Department. We are so excited to have these amazing women on our GCKids leadership team.

We had 378 kids join us for our Vacation Bible School this summer. We also partnered with the Denver Rescue Mission to host 25 refugee students.

We saw 53 kids make decisions for Jesus this year. Many came through VBS, in addition to some other parent-led, first-time decisions. What a great testimony of God's faithfulness!

We had quite a few kids go through Cross-Training (kids' Foundations of Faith classes), many of which made the decision to follow through with baptism.

We give God all the glory for the amazing work He has done this past year in the lives of our kids and their families. We are also incredibly thankful for the amazing volunteers who serve our kids each week at GCKids. I truly believe we have some of the absolute BEST!

Average attendance in GCKids did not fluctuate much this past year. Averages remain, for the most part, consistent. Volunteers, however, remain our greatest need and what we believe to be our biggest key to success. Through much of the school year, we only had about 70 percent of the volunteer team needed for our kids. To use a hockey analogy, although we currently have a crew of all-stars, the team's opportunity for success will be limited by consistently playing shorthanded. We could use a "power play!" Would you consider joining our team to help us reach our goals of helping kids develop and understand a relationship with Jesus? Needs include all current Sunday programming (Nursery, Preschool, and Elementary) in addition to Tuesday evening Awana clubs. Email Pastor Jamie for more information.

Kids are our future, and we look forward to seeing how God will show His faithfulness through this ministry again this year. Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

KIDS' MINISTRY: This year's Vacation Bible School was one of the best ever! Each day, VBS built upon the topics and concepts learned the previous day all leading toward Thursday's Gospel presentation. Kids had the opportunity to raise their hands to indicate that they made a decision to follow Jesus, some for the very first time! This year, we saw 53 kids make decisions. God is so good.

At the end of the day, a mom came up to me and asked what it meant if there was a checkmark next to her child's name on the roster. I told her that it indicated to our team that a decision had been made to follow Jesus. In that moment, this mom had a stunned look on her face and was clearly holding back her emotion. We didn't speak further, and she quickly took her child's hand and walked away. A bit unsure of what to make of this, I tried to keep an eye on her and her kids. I could see them talking across the room and was concerned that she may have been offended or unclear of what took place. Maybe this decision wasn't one she felt comfortable having her child make. All sorts of thoughts ran through my head.

I continued to think of our interaction, and Friday morning's session came and went. When we met again Friday night, she came up to me and thanked me for an amazing week. She shared that her emotion the day before was because of how happy she was to be a part of a church like Grace Chapel, who has leaders that love her kids with the love of Christ. She shared that the struggle of parenting can be tough (of which I agreed!), and she was so thankful to have a church family that would walk alongside families in their spiritual growth. It brought me such joy to hear her words which were a clear affirmation of the hard work our team had put into such an intense week. Thank you, to this mom, for your kind words of affirmation; it made a huge impact on me after a challenging, yet amazing, week of ministry.

– Jamie Tressen, Kids Pastor



YOUTH



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Kurt Roberts went to North Park University in Chicago, where he met his wife, Christy. After graduating, they moved to California to work in youth programs for several ministries. Kurt is working on his Masters of Divinity and plans to graduate in 2020.

Kurt Roberts, Youth Pastor
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I have had people ask me before where I saw God working. I can confidently say, that God has been doing some incredible work in the lives of our youth. This past year, we had multiple stories of students stepping out in boldness and sharing their faith with non-believers. Students have invited friends to our youth group, and a handful of students consistently come to youth group from families that are not Christian. Furthermore, it has been a joy for me to see several of our students show interest in becoming children's pastors, youth pastors, and even a senior pastor someday. God has been stirring the hearts of the youth at Grace, and it has been clear God is continuing to work in the lives of our youth.

Some Recap Highlights

This past year, we had several opportunities to do events, retreats, mission trips, and weekly Wednesday and Sunday gatherings. One of our biggest highlights every year are our winter retreats. We partnered with 20 other churches: our Junior High went to Frontier Ranch and our High School went to Crooked Creek. It was amazing to see 500 students worshipping God together and learning about His love for them.

We also had the amazing opportunity to take 16 high school students to Guatemala. It was our second year partnering with JPLA Shadow of His Wings, and we had an amazing time. Our students not only served people in need, but also learned more about God through the people we served. Currently, our youth group is sponsoring two orphans from Shadow of His Wings.

In addition, we took 15 high school students to the CHIC Youth Conference. CHIC is held in Knoxville, Tennessee, and only happens once every three years. Overall, roughly 6,000 students and adult leaders attended. We had the opportunity to worship God, hear some incredible speakers, and had a lot of fun doing it. Many of our students have used CHIC as a major catalyst in their spiritual growth.

Right now, we have been averaging approximately 55 junior high and high school students on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday nights, we have been averaging 13 junior high students and 46 high school students.

Looking Ahead

God has blessed us tremendously this past year, and we have been so encouraged by the spiritual growth in our students. In reflecting, it gives us great hope and excitement for this upcoming year. We long to see our students continually challenged in their faith as they continue to teach, love, and serve.

COMMUNITY



Steve Whitlock and his wife, Kim, have attended Grace Chapel for 23 years. Steve graduated from both Seattle Pacific University and Denver Seminary. He has served on staff for 14 years with a burden to share the amazing message of Jesus' life and person given for sinners like us. He believes the Church is who we are, not where we go. Steve and Kim live with their pups, Scout and Candy, who sometimes needs to be told to get off the furniture.

Steve Whitlock, Groups Pastor
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We have lots of groups at Grace Chapel! They meet on different days of the week in different locations. Our groups include small groups, home groups, mid-week groups, Sunday communities, and Tuesday night classes. We are also excited about the five new groups that launched last year.

Community is where the people of Grace Chapel can be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble (1 Peter 3:8). In community, we “*Spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, all while encouraging one another*” (Hebrews 10:24–25). We’ve seen that happen in our church family.

Opportunity

We’ve been amazed at the leaders who have stepped up to start new groups. At the same time, we are still waiting for some of the groups to populate and gain momentum. We have a number of groups who could use people.

It’s through community that many of you have shared life – you ate good meals, camped, prayed, worshipped, played glow-in-the-dark Frisbee, moved people into new homes, and pointed people towards Jesus. This is how He often meets us, through other people!

Summary

In summary, people have connected in a number of ways, including:

- Sunday Adult Communities*
- Small Group Studies*
- Tuesday Nights at Grace*
- Young Adults United*
- Singles Ministry*

Projects

We’ve rolled out our new Groups’ Starter Kit, which is a guide for creating, launching, and promoting new groups.

We are releasing our Sermon Discussion Guide, which can be used in groups or families to process the sermon together from a discussion and application standpoint.

We’ve created a new Grace Chapel Small Groups document, which conveys values, expectations, and alignment with the church.

Community Connection

It is our conviction and commitment that no matter where you are in life or your spiritual journey, you were not intended to go it alone. At Grace Chapel, there’s a place for you.

FAMILY & PRAYER



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Ron Brenning has been the Marriage and Family Pastor at Grace Chapel for 10 years. His heart beats for families. Preparing young adults for relationships, instructing couples on how to be married, and parents on how to parent is his heart and passion. He recently finished his doctorate work through Westminster Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Karen, have been married for 43 years and have 4 children and 14 grandchildren (up by two over the last year). Both Ron and Karen enjoy walking, biking, cooking, and their grandchildren. They spend time in the mountains and are fans of all the Colorado sports teams.

Dr. Ron Brenning, Family and Prayer Pastor
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Paul tells us that everything is “from Him,” “through Him,” and “for Him,” (Romans 11:36). So where has God’s faithfulness been demonstrated in our Family and Prayer Ministry this past year?

Parenting

When it comes to connecting church and home, we evidenced God’s Word instructing parents of all ages to be the primary spiritual leader in their homes. Over 120 people participated in our “Milestones” parenting classes. That means 60 homes now have a spiritual plan for raising their children in the instruction and discipline of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Child Dedication

We had 10 families place themselves under the care of the Lord by committing to Him their child and themselves to become a godly home.

Marriage Preparation

Five couples were given 6 weeks of spiritual and marital training to prepare them for the challenges and privileges of a Christ-centered marriage.

Marriage Mentors

We presently have 6 couples who are being cared for by our Marriage Mentors who encourage, inspire, and support them through their marital journey.

Baptisms

Throughout the year, 24 people placed their faith in Christ and followed His teaching to be baptized. We rejoice that Heaven got bigger!

Prayer Training

Six environments, three Sunday School classes, and three Tuesday Night venues allowed us to teach worship-based prayer (seeking God’s face before we seek His hand). This training teaches how to follow the Lord’s Prayer. Also, 3 people attended a training conference in Chicago on prayer, and 10 people attended a Prayer Summit with Daniel Henderson in Denver.

Prayer Gatherings

This past year, the Lord's presence was sought after corporately in multiple venues.

Four Prayer Gatherings were held on the first Thursday of the month, attended by some 250 people.

Five men meet every Wednesday to pray for two hours.

Fourteen people pray once-a-month for four hours (GC Prayer Summit).

Five people pray weekly in-between services.

Elders and staff pray weekly over the flock.

A prayer team meets every Monday to faithfully pray over the Connect Card requests.

Sunday School classes, ministries, and small groups are devoted to prayer.

Our Youth Ministry conducts a prayer walk around multiple schools every fall.

Equipping families in our Milestone Parenting classes, to make prayer a priority, is our focus.

People consistently pray for Grace Chapel. I don't even who, but I'm so thankful.


We are becoming a House of Prayer one person, one family, and one group at a time.

Coming Attractions:

We are going to intentionally focus on MARRIAGE. We will be offering a Marriage Retreat in Colorado Springs this fall, October 19–21. Registration is open, and a Sunday morning four-week class on growing strong marriages will be offered in the spring of 2019.

We are offering a three-week Parenting Class on "Navigating Your Child's Digital Life" which starts November 11. This will be an informative class focusing on practical steps for keeping kids safe and spiritually healthy in a digital world.





PRAYER MINISTRY: *You have said, "Seek My face." My heart says to You, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Psalm 27:8*

The last two years of my life have been filled with growing closer to God's heart through worship-based prayer. Worship-based prayer is choosing to enjoy God's presence and seeking His face before seeking His hand. It's praying with an open Bible and proclaiming God's greatness and holiness as described in His Word.

Although I have enjoyed amazing times of worship-based prayer on my own, there is something powerful about gathering with other like-minded believers. The more I gather with others and listen to their heart of prayer, the more I grow in my own walk and prayer life with God. I love that He has gifted some with wisdom, some with the message of knowledge, some with a gift of faith, and others with healing. Can you imagine how powerful a prayer gathering could be when all these giftings come together to worship in spirit and truth and boldly proclaim the goodness and mercy of our mighty God?

These gatherings not only exist at Grace Chapel, but are growing in numbers as well. Through the summer months, 15–20 people gathered once-a-month for a mini-prayer summit to seek God's face. We meet in the Chapel and enjoy four hours of worship-based prayer. These summits will continue to meet once-a-month for the rest of the year. There is nothing sweeter than seeking God's face together! If you are curious or longing to go deeper with God, we would love to have you join us.

– Krista Jessee

MEN'S MINISTRY: When I reflect back on the last ten years at Grace and my family's growth, I think of three things:

We recognize and have chosen that Christ and God's Word are the authority in our home and lives. This transforms how we see the church. Church is not a mix of things for our fulfillment, it's not a person, it's the body of Christ where we are fed, equipped, serve, and find fellowship.

We've been blessed by seeking out mentors, classes on marriage, parenting, finances, and small groups as we've walked through countless life events. Our identity in Christ and purpose has grown. We are a part of a body, and this is reflected in our home and in our conversations.

We are not here to simply receive. God desires that we live in community, loving and serving in the ways God has gifted us. We've grown in knowing that the mark of Christian maturity involves serving, fellowship, and living life together. Our friendships, mentorships, and small groups are vital as we've asked for prayer, prayed over others, talked life over countless cups of coffee, and cared for others.

God has called us to Grace and to this family. We are so blessed and excited to be a part of this ministry. We look to the future with hope and prayerful consideration on how we can continue to grow, fellowship, serve, and be a part of this mission.

– David Self

MEN



Lowell Friesen has been the Men's Director at Grace Chapel since 2011. His desire is for all the men of Grace to know Christ personally and for them to make Him known to others.

Lowell and his wife, Peggy, have been married 44 years and have been blessed with three children, two daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and five grandchildren. They have been members of Grace since 1996.

Lowell Friesen, Men's Director
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The Men's Ministry of Grace offers great opportunities for men of all generations to grow in Christ. We offer events that draw men to a deeper walk with the living God as well as a pathway to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who find increasing joy in serving others.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach – Grace Chapel has partnered with Heart for the World Christian Center in Aurora for the past 8 years to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families in the Denver area. Last year, over 30 men, women, and children served the needy families of Denver over the holiday season. Volunteers helped register guests and assemble and distribute food baskets. Others gave out clothing and wrapped and distributed Christmas presents and Bibles. Heart for the World Christian Center has been serving the needs of the poor and homeless for over 20 years. Those who participate in this effort say it is a great way to actually experience the true meaning of these two significant holidays as a family.

BBQs – Approximately 100 men gathered together in October 2017 and again in April 2018 to get to know other men of Grace, connect with leaders, and find out what opportunities were available to them. They were also challenged to fulfill their stewardship responsibilities in their sphere of influence by serving God and others (family, friends, and co-workers). Several men's groups took that challenge to heart and served those in need in our own congregation.

Spring Retreat – The retreat was a time of refreshment and re-orientation for over 80 men who attended. Our own Pastor Josh brought messages from God's Word on the subject of men and worship. Josh's message, that men were made to worship God without reservation, brought a fresh depth to the worship, teaching, and prayers during small group time. Many men formed meaningful friendships as a result of participating in the retreat.

Summer Camping Events in July are always exciting and inspiring to both dads and kids. These weekend camps provide a spiritual boost to the father/child relationship. This past July, we had over 80 fathers and their kids participate in these two events. The surroundings at Grand Lake were amazing, the activities were exciting, and God was present as fathers got away with their sons and daughters to build transformational memories. This year was no exception. Kids and dads were challenged to live the simple Gospel message—some for the first time. The father and son (Gold Rush) and father and daughter (Silver Run) camping weekends provided a rich opportunity for men to spiritually bless their children in a powerful way.

Small Groups and Classes – Over 30 men participated in Tuesday night classes, and many more in small group Bible studies during the week. Jesus made it clear that we are to abide in Him, follow Him, come to Him, know Him, love Him, and help others to do the same. These admonitions are at the center of all we do in Men's Ministry at Grace; helping men know Christ and make Him known.

Join the journey leading to authentic manhood and abundant life in Christ by getting connected in a community this year.

WOMEN

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too (1 Thessalonians 2:8). In Women's Ministry, we desire to experience the Good News of Christ in every way possible—sharing our lives and stories with each other as we grow together in faith. Some of the ways we did this were:



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Lynda Goorabian and her husband, Leon, are from California where they raised three sons and a daughter.

Her passion is seeing women's lives changed as they engage in authentic communities around God's Word. She loves hanging out with women, hearing stories, sipping coffee, or heading out for a brisk walk to enjoy the beauty of our state.

Lynda Goorabian,
Women's & Care Director
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Summer Soiree' – This first-time annual event gathered women mid-summer to make new friends and highlight ways they could get involved and experience abundant life in Christ together. Our patio was filled with ladies of all ages hovered around with plates filled with a variety of popcorn (pickle to strawberry) and fruity drinks in every color. There was no lack of food or conversation. Over 85 women joined us for this night under the stars where many decided to jump in and get involved in the upcoming year with Women's Ministries.

Rooted – Ladies Weekly Bible Study – This year, we spent time walking with Jesus through the pages of Mark. Beginning in the fall with 114 ladies (between morning and evening), we journeyed through Christ's ministry learning much of His power, kindness, intentionality, and why He had to die. Our goal to be more multigenerational is growing as we are seeing a sweet mix of ages learning together and investing in each other week-by-week.

MOPS – Our Mothers of Preschoolers Ministry (MOPS) continues its long tradition of supporting and encouraging young moms through this often challenging season of parenting. The amazing group of committed moms and mentors (about 56 of them) met on Wednesdays for inspiring and thought-provoking messages, discussion, crafts, and amazing food. In the spring, we added our MOPS Bible study (20 participants) that engaged in authentic conversation about how knowing God is lived out in our everyday lives.

Fall Women's Retreat – Glen Eyrie was the destination for our weekend get-away. With Shelly Volkhardt sharing God's Word, intertwined with her authentic and insightful stories, we truly unpacked what it means to Trust in the Goodness of God—despite any season in life. Kelly Riorden and team, as well as hearing stories from various women in our group, brought us together in heart and worship. The rain and cozy facilities brought this group of 64 together physically and spiritually.

Christmas Outreach – "Better to Receive" was the theme of this event designed to invite others who might not yet know Christ. Pattie Krohn shared her story of grace with us. Eighty-five women gathered to sing Christmas Carols, enjoy God's gift of cheesecake, and hear the Gospel message of why Jesus came and the ongoing impact of that gift.

Spring Hike (turned summer hike) – With a late May hike planned, we made a new last-minute plan to share breakfast together as the Lord graciously brought snow the day before the trip to Castlewood Canyon. Sharing laughter around the table in a restaurant or on a trail are equally fun, and this year, we did both due to weather. As usual, we had many new women join in the fun as we marched along the canyon paths making new friends, sharing stories, and enjoying the beauty of God's creation.

Piecemakers – This committed group of ladies meet weekly to skillfully and thoughtfully create quilts to bless others. This past year, their creativity and commitment produced 65 custom and unique blankets that were used to bless Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Ronald McDonald House, and moms in our church family.

CARE & COUNSELING

By this all men will know you are My disciples if you have love for one another! (John 13:35). We have seen an increase in God stirring the hearts of those who call Grace Chapel home to do just that! More ministries have launched to care for those who are hurting and needing that loving touch of our Savior through human hands. We have seen this through:


Equipped to Care Class – With the help of Tom Taylor and Tom Purvis, we offered our first weeknight class designed to help equip people to biblically care for others. We began in the fall with foundational topics like the elements, truths, and fruits of biblical counseling, the Gospel, and His Word. The spring semester covered more practical topics like anger, depression, marriage, and family dynamics to name a few. The Lord drew 25 people consistently over the course of the year. Together, we learned both theology and practical ways to lovingly share truth to those who are hurting around us.

Touched by Cancer Support Group – With many in our congregation being diagnosed with cancer this year, the Lord graciously brought us Ashley Doty to lead this important ministry. This group began in May and meets the second Wednesday each month to provide spiritual encouragement, prayer, and open sharing about the struggles common to those facing cancer and/or their caregivers.

Prayer Response Team – We love hearing how we can pray and care for needs within our church family. We had 3,073 prayer requests submitted this year. A faithful team of intercessors prayed weekly and reached out to love on those who shared their requests. We have seen God answer many, many requests over the course of the year. We love watching God work as we lay our lives and requests before Him and trust His provision and timing.

Practical Care Team – God has birthed the desire to expand the ways we care for people in tangible ways. While still in planning mode, this important ministry of helping meet physical needs (minor house/car repairs, providing meals, transportation, light housework) for our widows, single parents, etc., will be launching soon. This past spring, the Lord raised up Deacons with expanded roles to help birth this new ministry. With footings being poured, the walls should be going up soon. Join the team.

The Hope of Denver Biblical Counseling Center – Helping others find true and lasting hope and healing in Christ is at the heart of our Counseling Ministry. We are committed to helping people overcome life's issues by helping them live in such a way that it will lead to abundant life (John 10:10). Our goal is not merely to help fix feelings or to find something in the past to blame issues upon. Rather, we want to use the hurt, learned behavior, or set-back as a catalyst for experiencing a greater sense of inner joy, peace, fulfillment, and healing. The Lord has been stirring in the hearts of many of our congregants to work through an intensive certification process with ACBC (Association of Certified Biblical Counselors) over the past few years that has culminated in 8 counselors completing or in process of being fully certified within a 6-month period of time; truly a God-size task and calling! We are excited to announce that the doors to the Counseling Center are officially open to provide free, short-term goal based, biblical counseling.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY: I've spent my entire life going to church, and except for Sundays, I never opened my Bible or spent any time reading it. In March 2017, I was blessed to join Josh on his amazing Israel tour. While I knew most of the stories and had at least heard of most of the places we visited, I really didn't know the details of how they fit into the timeline of the Bible.

After we returned, I was asked to join the Women's Summer Bible Study. I'd been feeling God tugging on my heart for quite some time to get more involved in church, so I decided to give Bible study a try. Every week, we read and studied verses and stories about the places where I had physically stood; places where Jesus was, visited, and taught. The overwhelming amazement of that just made me more and more eager to read the Bible each week. I wanted to learn more and truly understand what I was able to experience.

Bible study has introduced me, not only to a more structured study of the Bible, but also the chance to meet many, many amazing women; a lot of whom I'd seen around church for years. Reading the Bible is absolutely something you can do by yourself on your own time; but what Bible study brings is the chance to discuss and gain other people's perspectives on the text. My whole experience has really made it clear how much I want to learn more about the Bible and my walk with Christ.

– Stefanie Pfabe



WORSHIP



For many years, Josh Weidmann has spoken to churched and unchurched crowds about the truth of the Gospel from the authority of God's Word. He has served as our Senior Pastor for three years and has a passion to partner with other churches to reach South Denver together for Jesus! He and his wife, Molly, have five children and enjoy loving Christ, loving each other, and loving on God's people.

Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor
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Worship is more than music, but music in the church is almost always worship; that is very true at Grace Chapel. We sing and make joyful noises because we have been so deeply impacted by Christ and His goodness to us. Our Worship Ministry exists to lead people in praise to Jesus, experiencing and expressing His supremacy through song.

This year was an exceptional year in our Worship Ministry as volunteers from our church body stepped forward to lead the weekend services. It is rare for a church of our size to not have a paid staff member leading worship. Usually, a person is hired to lead in a consistent and faithful manner, handling the leadership on stage and off of the stage. Yet, for Grace Chapel, consistency, faithfulness, and leadership all came through volunteers giving their time selflessly and without compensation. This is commendable and truly showed the posture of the worship leaders' hearts – they just want to serve and praise Jesus!

Here are some of what God did last year in our Worship Ministry:

We formed a Worship Leadership Team. Joey Rothman (our Weekend Experience Director) and I linked arms with six other volunteer leaders to plan our weekly services and lead our Worship Ministry. We met monthly and had calls weekly to review what God was doing in our midst and to plan future services for God to move.

We refined our song list for the church. We have literally sung hundreds of songs over the last few years. We decided to review the list and confine it to a lesser number of songs, including hymns and new songs, so that we are engaging with the music with familiarity and passion.

We executed excellent, authentic Christ-centered worship services. Our weekend services were led by volunteer worship leaders and band leaders who prayerfully called others to join them as they worshiped Christ in over 100 services in the last 12 months.

We welcomed in new, skilled musicians. We added musicians and singers to our team who wanted to serve the Lord with their musical skill.

I am so grateful for the faithfulness of our volunteers at this season in our church. We needed good leadership and passion in this ministry, and God provided! As we lead people to follow Jesus, we must continue to be intentional with our Worship Ministry. Our weekend services will maintain an authentic environment for God to move among His people as they praise His name!

WEEKEND EXPERIENCE



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Joey Rothman has many years of experience in producing church weekend worship services and special events, specifically generating and executing compelling creative elements to enhance the worship experience. She is passionate about working with volunteer teams and building community. Joey also enjoys spending as much time as possible on the tennis court!

Joey Rothman, Weekend Experience Director
JRothman@GraceChapel.org

Guest Services

Attend. Connect. Serve. Belong. These are our key words and the pathway we want people to experience at Grace Chapel. To feel welcome the first time they ATTEND, taking steps to CONNECT and SERVE, and ultimately to find a place to BELONG. We have seen so many amazing things happen within Guest Services and Connections this past year.

Our Parking Lot Crew, Greeters, Info Center, Ushers, and Food Services teams are such an amazing group of volunteers. They are truly “Incredibles” as they serve so consistently and so whole-heartedly.

Week-to-week, our desire is to make people feel at home at Grace Chapel, whether it is someone’s first visit or have attended for decades. From parking lot to pew, our consistent goal is for people to know they matter to us.

We also want to make the guest experience at Grace the best it can be for everyone who enters our doors. As a part of that, renovations are being made to our lobby areas in the Worship Center. These are well-used spaces both on Sunday mornings and during the week. We want to create a warm and welcoming setting for people to gather and be in relationship with one another. We hope these small changes bring value to the people who spend time connecting with other folks.

Connections

Our Connections Team has seen continued growth in our Grace Orientation (GO) class series. We have had over 125 people attend and participate in these classes to find out more about Grace Chapel and take the next step to connect through community. This has become a great way for people to engage with our staff and Elders in a casual, informative setting.

We started using the Connect Card, over a year ago, to help people get connected in community and start serving. It helps each ministry to know how to best serve those who want to get involved. We also love receiving prayer requests and praises as the staff and Elders pray over those each week.

As we look ahead, in addition to continuing the GO classes, we want to provide new connection points for people to find a place to belong within our church family. This fall, we plan to launch Affinity Group gatherings that will continue throughout the year ahead. We believe life is about being in relationship with Christ and with others. We are excited to see God start new relationships and grow current relationships through these new opportunities.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS



Terry Jarvis and his wife, Monika, live near Larkspur and have four grown children with four grandchildren. Terry loves getting people involved in God's mission, cutting grass with his tractor, fixing cars, and relaxing at their cabin in Estes Park.

Terry Jarvis, Outreach Pastor
TJarvis@GraceChapel.org

We give praise and honor to God for allowing Grace Chapel to participate in His mission at home and around the world. Through His grace, the generosity of the people at Grace, and our partners, we were blessed to see the Lord's hand in so many tangible ways.

I am so blessed to see how the Grace community, because they sense a call on their lives, continue to get more and more involved with people who do not know Jesus through the ministries of sharing the Gospel, service, prayer, care, and personal giving. I am so encouraged as people step up to the challenges presented to them. Without your loving participation, Grace could not do what we do.

Our ministry values: Kingdom expansion (evangelism and church planting), serving families in distress (emergency relief and winter shelter), providing resources for life (clean water and rental assistance clinics), and being a voice for the voiceless (anti-sex trafficking) are being lived out globally and locally through our ministry partners, Grace volunteers, and the financial resources we have available through your generous giving.

From evangelism campaigns and community development in Benin, West Africa, to four Chinese students coming to faith at a camp in China, and North African Arabs being reached through village outreach and follow-up ministries, the Gospel is going forth in Word and deed.

Closer to home, 12 families received food, warmth, prayer, and a kind word at the Winter Shelter, 3 refugee families were loved and cared for by Grace mentors, a couple moved into the Elevation apartments to build bridges and do ministry, several families and single moms received rental assistance, and not to mention the 25 refugee kids that attended VBS this year with one of them accepting Jesus as Lord.

We are blessed to have so many amazing ministry partners; many serve in very difficult circumstances and all work day-after-day with joy and determination to expand God's Kingdom. Like Paul in Romans 1:16, *"They are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto Salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for Your faithfulness to Grace Chapel over so many years. Give us grace to not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ in a hostile world and to continue to seek Your face personally and corporately to know how we can continue to be about Your great mission.



REFUGEE MINISTRY: Elvise is the oldest kid in his family and had to be registered during the day for this new school year at his charter school. His mom, with her limited English and full-time job, wasn't able to do this, and I was the only one available to get Elvise registered.

It was quite an adventure. We had a side trip to their landlord for proof of address, signing free lunch forms, health forms, and selecting classes. This has been great for Elvise, and I've been so impressed by the teachers. Without outside help, Elvise would find himself back at his old school where he was really floundering.

– John Moorhead

REFUGEE MINISTRY: It has been surprising to see how many people don't even know what the term "refugee" means due to the resistance we have seen in recent years. There is a great deal of persecution happening to the refugee community. These people did not ask for war or other political uprisings to come to their homes. They did not want to flee or leave. They have come to Colorado looking for a safe place, an opportunity to start again, and it is my honor to welcome them to their new home.

I have worked with refugees since 2003. I learned refugees don't need me to take care of them like a child, but to be a friend. As an American, I am equipped to serve the refugee community coming to Colorado and have been transformed from a skeptic to a teacher to an advocate to a friend. I absolutely love the different cultures and experiencing an unbelievable joy of walking beside these resilient and courageous people.

Recently, I prayed about a way God could use me to serve. God lead me to Grace Chapel, our VBS church at the time, to see if there was an interest. Grace was already working with Denver Rescue Mission and Lutheran Family Services.

To my surprise, God didn't just want a "Refugee Sunday" experience, but a ministry.

We have now completed our first round of six-month commitments. We served three refugee families who we are still serving in different capacities. I would love for you to join me and others with welcoming refugees from around the world into our community.

– Tracy Small



GLOBAL FOCUS AREA – TUNISIA: Nabil was visibly uncomfortable. His face was flushed, and he shifted awkwardly in his seat. All eyes were on him. It was his turn to share words of affirmation with a family member as part of our discussion on *The Five Love Languages* book. Housseem, his 25-year-old son, waited to hear what his father had to say with heart pounding and eyes downcast. As Nabil passed him a sparkly pink heart, Housseem looked up and met his gaze. "Housseem, I love you," Nabil said. "I wish you much success in life and want you to go back to school. When you graduate, we will have a big party, and I will invite all of these friends to celebrate with us!"

This was the first time Housseem had heard such words from his father! Relationships between father and son are stoic and often strained. Housseem lived at home, jobless and having failed in university, and he often felt his father's disappointment in the silence that distanced them. But now God had used the topic of LOVE to break down those barriers! The next day, Housseem shyly admitted how happy he was to finally hear words of love and acceptance from his father. His sister enthused, "I'm happy you came to our house and talked about love. This is important and something we never talk about."

On our last trip in March 2018, we were welcomed by almost 100 people, as individuals and in family groups, and shared the Gospel with 25 Muslims. Sandy Stoller and I traveled with a couple from Lebanon who speak Arabic and are gifted evangelists. We built upon relationships from past trips and the friendships that have deepened through daily interactions on Facebook. Our discussion format met with great success! After each family discussed *The Five Love Languages*, they received a bookmark with 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 in Arabic, "God's definition of love."

I think with amazement of how we came to this point of trust and deep friendship with Muslims. Ministry has been difficult in this area, and there have been many challenges. But, two things remained constant: we demonstrated the love of Jesus, and we kept coming back.

God's hand of blessing is on our ministry in Tunisia, and our faithful prayers over the past 18 years are being answered. This is an exciting time to get involved! Join our Task Force, pray on Skype with the Prayer Team, encourage a Tunisian believer on Facebook, or come to experience for yourself the miracle of loving someone completely different from you, yet so much the same. Our next trip is November 2–16.

– Bev Bylsma, bylsma5@msn.com

MINISTRY SERVICES

The last six months have been an exciting time at Grace Chapel, and I have been blessed in my new position. We have seen God do amazing things in the Ministry Services area, which includes Finance, Facilities, IT, and Security.



Joseph Siacunco is married to his lovely wife, Allie, and they have one daughter, Jasmine. He moved to Colorado in 2011 to attend Denver Seminary and finished his Masters degree in 2016. Joseph has been blessed by his new role at Grace Chapel, which he started in January 2018. He enjoys travelling, movies, cooking, spending time with the family, and the outdoors.

Joseph Siacunco, Business Director
JSiacunco@GraceChapel.org

God has clearly moved in the hearts of the people at Grace, spurring them to give generously towards the mission of God at Grace Chapel. We celebrate God's generosity towards His people and realize that without His presence, we would accomplish nothing. God, through all of you, allowed us to fully fund all our ministry goals. Concurrently, we were wise stewards of God's resources as we were able to accomplish our goals without using all the resources that were available for fiscal year 2017–2018. God is clearly moving at Grace Chapel, and we are eager to faithfully serve and worship Him. We look to God for guidance and to help us continue to see what good stewardship is and what being a faithful servant looks like. We are excited about what God has planned for Grace Chapel in the years to come.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

We have transitioned from a previous financial and membership database software to ShelbyNext. This transition will help pastors, leaders, staff, and volunteers reach people more effectively and help others grow closer to Jesus Christ. Once we launch the new church database to the congregation, we are certain everyone will benefit. This new resource will help bring the church together and experience unity, as it will be easier to connect and join groups.

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

The church has become more secure over the last six months. Despite some challenges, we were able to accomplish many things to make Grace an exceptional place to encounter God. Through everyone's faithful generosity and God's providence, we have installed several new security cameras across the whole campus and began having Deputies from Douglas County present on Sunday mornings.

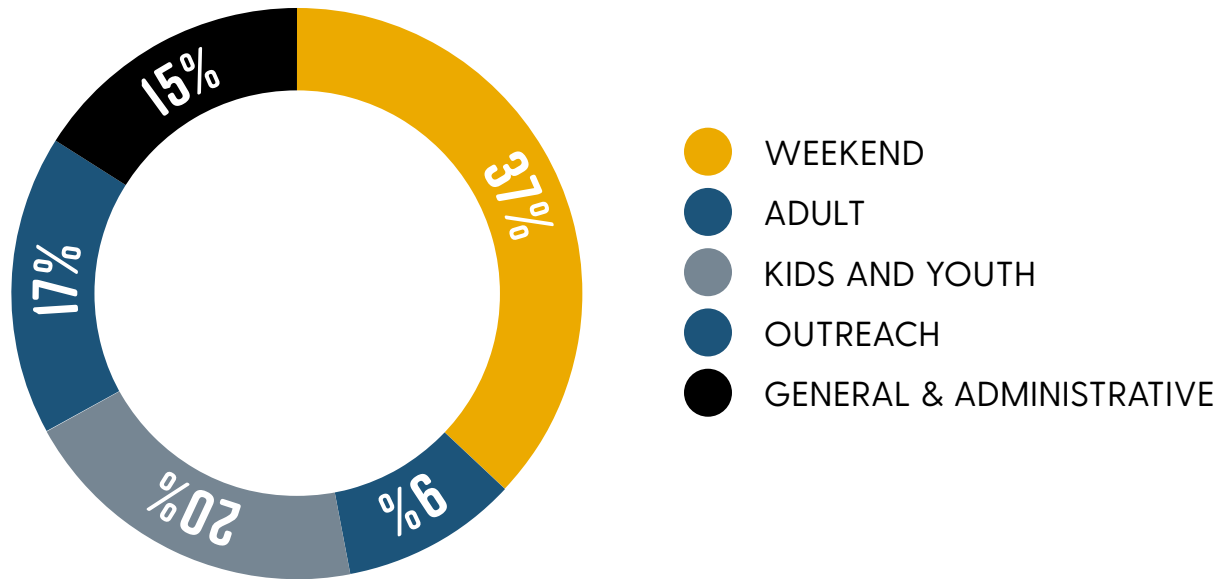
Our Security Team is also constantly undergoing new trainings, and we are always looking for new and better ways to help create a safe environment for others to worship. The guiding principal for security at Grace has been Psalm 127:1 which states,

Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

The Security Team recognizes the need for God's presence at church and depends upon the Lord's guidance and wisdom to carry out their responsibilities.

This has been an incredible and encouraging season for Grace Chapel. We see that God is clearly at work and is cultivating His church. We are preparing the way for the Lord to see what miraculous things HE will accomplish. We are genuinely excited about this season at Grace Chapel!

SUPPORT, REVENUES, & EXPENSES



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REVENUES	June 30, 2018 Unaudited	June 30, 2019 Budget
Contributions	2,724,000*	2,840,000*
Contributions, Restricted	152,000	-
Ministry & Other Income	94,000	78,000
Rent Income	3,000	-
TOTAL REVENUES	2,973,000	2,918,000

EXPENSES	June 30, 2018 Unaudited	June 30, 2019 Budget
Programs		
Weekend	1,075,000	1,185,000
Adult	270,000	307,000
Kids and Youth	590,000	460,000
Outreach	502,000	435,000
General & Administrative	446,000	518,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,883,000	2,905,000

NET <LOSS> INCOME	90,000	13,000
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* Grace Chapel allocates 15 percent of every *general fund gift* to our Outreach Ministry so that ministries in Denver and around the world are also supported.

We do all we can to maintain the highest levels of integrity with the resources God gives us. Steps we have taken include membership in the Evangelical Counsel for Financial Accountability (ECFA), and the Elders employ an independent accounting firm to conduct an annual audit of our financial statements.

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

ASSETS	June 30, 2018 Unaudited
Operating Cash	1,015,000
Designated & Restricted Cash	236,500
Other Assets	13,500
Land, Property, & Equipment (net)	6,874,000
TOTAL ASSETS	8,139,000
LIABILITIES	
Total Liabilities	150,000
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	7,936,500
Temporarily Restricted	52,500
TOTAL NET ASSETS	7,989,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	8,139,000

HOW TO GIVE

Did you know you can give online? General Fund donations are accepted online by visiting our website and choosing the "Give" option.

To give by mail or through your bank's bill pay feature, send a check to:

Grace Chapel
8505 S Valley Hwy
Englewood, CO 80112

OTHER DATA	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2018 (unaudited)
Net <Loss> Income	<109,000>	241,000	90,000
Facility Improvements	108,000	28,000	10,152
Outreach Programs	381,000	425,000	502,000
Benevolence Offerings	10,000	5,000	6,761
New Givers	142	180	278
Average Adult Worship Attendance	587	623	649
Giving Households	533	598	611



GraceChapel