



bethanycovenantchurch

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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A LETTER FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

The Bible is filled with stories of people hungry for a God-given vision. Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt because God caught his attention with a burning bush. Later on in the story, Moses took God's dictation at the top of Mount Sinai. God's preferred future appeared to Joseph, Samuel, Peter, Paul, and Mary in dreams. The prophets of Israel looked to the past in order to critique the present and to offer an alternative vision of the future. Jesus kept retreating to the mountains so he could listen to the Father's direction. God used several strategies to bless his people with a vision so they could pass his blessings on to strangers to the truth.

Bethany Covenant Church is earnestly seeking God's vision. The laypeople and the clergy are listening together to seek God's direction for the future. We believe that God uses both pastors and lay leaders to advance his mission together.

The Vitality Team spent a year praying, communicating, and writing a relational covenant. As we studied the history of the church, we were reminded that God was working in our congregation through sacrificial giving, our satellite Sunday Schools, our camping ministry, the youth group, the Bible studies, and missionary work. As we considered our Biblical story, we discerned that Bethany Covenant Church was like Joseph who saved Egypt and the known world by administering God's blessings in a time of famine. Our internal profile suggested that should emphasize children and youth, continue mission and outreach, unify the people who attend our two services, and stay true to scripture. Our external profile suggested that Bethany Covenant Church should help the Skagit Valley navigate several social issues including limited housing, addiction, poverty, and increasing ethnic diversity.

Now, a Strategic Planning Team has been formed to listen to God and offer helpful suggestions. Like the Vitality Team, the Strategic Planning Team has no official power. The task of the Strategic Planning Team is to prayerfully look at the church and community and offer fresh ideas to the Leadership Team and congregation.

We need you to participate in this visioning process. Everybody at church is invited to participate in the PULSE survey. This is not a poll about your favorite hymn or preaching series. This assessment tool examines how successful Bethany Covenant Church is at helping you engage the ten healthy, missional markers. Healthy, missional churches want their people to read the Bible, to walk with Jesus, to share their faith, to offer compassion, to engage the larger world, to foster community, to worship God in a heartfelt manner, to give sacrificially, to advance Godly leadership, and to develop fruitful organizational structures. Now is the time to participate in the visioning process by prayerfully taking the PULSE survey.

God will surely honor our sincere efforts to discern his will. I don't know if God will send us an obvious message such as a burning bush or an unexpected dream. I am confident that God has already sent the Holy Spirit to direct our steps. May God continue to bless Bethany Covenant Church as we step into his preferred future.

- Pastor Ryan Eikenbary-Barber

WORSHIP TOGETHER

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE 577

CHRISTMAS



3 PERFORMANCES
OF THE
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL



1 FAMILY-ORIENTED
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



1 LESSONS & CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

OVER **2250** IN ATTENDANCE



OVER 150 PEOPLE VOLUNTEERED

EASTER

3 SERVICES

REACHING

1100

PEOPLE

SPECIAL SERVICES

 TAIZÉ

 PRAYER SERVICE

 ASH WEDNESDAY

 GOOD FRIDAY

 HANDEL'S MESSIAH

OVER 1350 IN ATTENDANCE



FOLLOWING JESUS

COMMITMENTS OF FAITH

WILLIAM BERDINE
EMMA CLEAVE
MATTIE JANES
GRACE POLLETT
RILEY SMITH
RAINA CHENEY
DIANE FOX
TORI VANDER POL



ANAYA HOLLINGSWORTH
IZZY NELSON
JONAH ROZEMA
NOAH ROZEMA
GUNNAR WAGGONER
AUDREY WAGGONER
LOGAN MOLDENHAUER
GEORGIA ANN SMITH

16 BAPTISMS

ANJA EIKENBARY-BARBER
ANNA RAY
ANNA JANE THULEN
CLAIRE HINDMAN
COLE PRESTMO
CONRAD BROWN
CURTIS KLAUS



JAILYN TORSETH
JAMES CARLTON
JONAH WALTERS
LILA SUCHSLAND
LUKE JOHNSTON
NOELLE BELANGER
STEVEN GARD
SUMMER ROZEMA

15 CONFIRMANDS

NEW BELIEVERS



18 PEOPLE TOOK THAT NEXT STEP IN
EMBRACING AND FOLLOWING JESUS.
WE REJOICE WITH THEM!



BEING TOGETHER

BETHANY KIDS

198

KIDS INVOLVED

92

KIDS VOLUNTEERS

 **NURSERY**

41 INVOLVED

 **PLUG-IN**

70 INVOLVED

 **SMALL GROUPS**

67 INVOLVED

 **THE GROVE**

32 INVOLVED

 **FRIDAZE**

35 INVOLVED

BETHANY YOUTH

JH RETREAT 

28 STUDENTS | 4 LEADERS

SH RETREAT 

18 STUDENTS | 4 LEADERS

GUATEMALA 

42 STUDENTS | 10 LEADERS

173

YOUTH INVOLVED

24

YOUTH LEADERS

BETHANY ADULTS

ADULT ATTENDEES 849



**BIBLE
STUDY**
156 INVOLVED



HOME GROUPS
24 GROUPS



CBE
COMMUNITY BIBLE
EXPERIENCE
386 INVOLVED



MEMBERSHIP & MEMORIALS

NEW MEMBERS



RON LOOS
SUSAN LOOS
KIM PETERSON
CAROLYN NORDQUIST
JEAN SPILLANE

WE CELEBRATE

WITH THOSE WHO TOOK THE NEXT
STEP IN BECOMING MEMBERS
AT BETHANY THIS YEAR.

DE WEDELL
SHARON WEDELL
CHUCK WILKIE
ANNIE BOOKER
JACKIE HOLUM
JOHN HOLUM

MEMORIALS

WE REMEMBER

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE
US AT BETHANY THIS YEAR.

KEN OLDENBURGER
GLORIA KNUDSEN
KARL STURDY
DON MOWAT
MARY ANN REHM

SUSAN VETVICK
LOU TAYLOR
LUTHER MULLINS
ADDISON AUSTIN
*SHERLENE ELANDER

**NON-MEMBERS OF BETHANY*



SERVING TOGETHER

MISSIONS INITIATIVES

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING



OVER **1,100** BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVEN

SKAGIT FEEDS KIDS



OVER **60,000** MEALS PACKAGED

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



1 BUILD PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED

ACTS OF SERVICE

YOUTH GROUP PRAYER WALK



120 CITY BLOCKS WALKED & PRAYED OVER

GARDENING CLUB



OVER **2,500** POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

FRIDAZE



ENGAGED IN **4** MISSION PROJECTS

DIACONATE



DISTRIBUTED OVER **100** FOOD BOXES

COV

CHILDREN OF THE VALLEY

50 STUDENTS SERVED
36 FAMILIES REACHED

60 VOLUNTEERS
3,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

PRESCHOOL

97 FAMILIES REACHED
16 TWO YEAR OLDS

36 THREE YEAR OLDS
51 FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

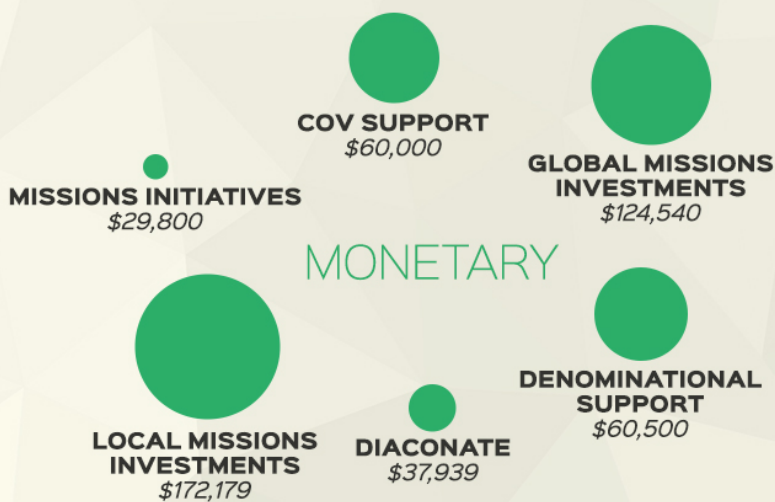


GIVING GENEROUSLY

TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN MISSIONS \$296,719



STATISTICS



MISSIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- 19 MISSIONS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED
- 43 MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED
- 15 COUNTRIES IMPACTED BY BCC MISSIONS
- 5 CONTINENTS IMPACTED BY BCC MISSIONS
- 3 SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS INITIATIVES
- 285 MISSION INITIATIVE PARTICIPANTS
- 42% OF TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING TO GLOBAL
- 58% OF TOTAL MISSIONS GIVING TO LOCAL



WORDS FROM OUR STAFF



Pastor Vicki Lund

It is amazing how God has moved and blessed the many areas of ministry I intersect with this past year. Coordination between the Care Team, the Diaconate and the Living Hope Prayer Ministry provided more support to our congregation this past year. Small groups have also made a significant contribution in care especially as we have seen an increase with those having cancer.

Coordinating the Community Bible Experience (reading of the whole New Testament) for 386 people over eight weeks was a highlight this past year. The Word of God continues to bring life and depth to BCC. We were able to host many of the Bible reading groups at the church during the week or on Sunday mornings.

Our fellowship/espresso ministry continues to thrive as hospitality and relationships grow through shared food and drink. The concept of the “Home Team” was brought to fruition from the vision of Pastor Paul. Continuity was coordinated between teams of volunteers (i.e. ushers, greeters, welcome center volunteers). Efforts were made to provide that “small church” family feel to visitors.

Our four Bible study ministries to men and women remained strong and healthy this past year. The leaders who coordinate these ministries guide the discipleship of many and assimilate new people to become part of the church.

I am grateful to partner with a healthy caring staff family that feels like an extension of my own family. Thank you for your support and prayers for me as I lead in the many areas of the church.

Pastor Randall Wilkens



This has been the year of Messiah! Congratulations to our Bethany Choir who dedicated the entire year to learning and performing the complete Handel’s Messiah in a series of three concerts. They rose to the challenge, sang beautifully, and found great joy and satisfaction in working together towards this amazing accomplishment—added to their normal duties of singing for worship, our Christmas Musical, and Tulip Festival Concert. Way to go, Choir!

Our Children’s Choir (aka the SonShine Singers) was huge this year with 60 kids participating! The Bethany Bells continue to ring beautifully for worship—sometimes for both services—and for our special programs. I’m so thankful to Becky Dutton and Armin Mohr for their loving, expert leadership of these groups.

Special performances like the ones I mentioned above are great, but for me the highest priority is always corporate worship. Our worshiping congregation is the most important musical ensemble of the church! This is true in our larger gatherings that happen every Sunday morning. It’s true in the smaller setting of our Sunday evening Taizé services—which have been particularly meaningful times of worship for me and those dedicated individuals who both lead and attend. It’s even true in our special programs, which are always infused with worship elements that focus our attention on the Lord. The past year has been a great one for worship at Bethany! May we as a church continue to give him glory in all we do!

WORDS FROM OUR STAFF



Pastor Britta Burger

Bethany Covenant Youth Ministry continues to grow and transform as the Holy Spirit moves within the dynamics of a constantly changing and challenging youth culture. Looking back, here are some highlights:

- Over 22 caring adult leaders serving weekly in youth ministry leading small groups, coordinating games, providing hospitality and counsel. Ministry here thrives because of them.
- The addition of 6th graders to youth ministry programming on Wednesday nights.
- Around 50% of Wednesday night youth group attenders are unchurched kids.
- Confirming 15 students in their faith on April 23rd.
- 7 youth-aged students were baptized this last year!
- Impactful retreats for both Jr. High and Sr. High at Cascades Camp
- Transformational Jr. High summer trip in 2016 to inner-city Portland where students grew in knowledge and experience by working with the dense homeless population there.
- Life-changing trip to Guatemala in 2016 for the 42 students and 10 leaders who partnered with Merge Ministries in the town Santa Apolonia (and neighboring villages).

With that same Spirit, I look forward to the kind of transformation that only God can offer to our young people. It is a joy and honor to pastor these kids, to serve this church, and to notice the ways that God is moving among us all.

Pastor Paul Burger



This past year of ministry has been full and rich. I am so grateful for our community at Bethany Covenant Church, for the mission and ministry that continues to happen each and every day, and for the opportunity to witness God at work in the lives of His people. A few highlights of the last year include:

- The work and creativity of our creative planning team in bringing new and fresh ideas to our gathered times of worship
- An emphasis on the use of video to continue to tell the story of who we are and the dedication and commitment of Summer Rozema & Melissa Anderson in making this possible.
- The increased use of social media to continue to tell the story of Bethany and connect with people throughout the week.
- The strengthening of relationships on our music worship teams as we've moved to a whole group rehearsal to foster a greater sense of team and community.
- The renewed emphasis on hospitality and welcome through the formation of the Home Team.
- Nearly 90 men attending our annual Steak Out event.

Looking ahead to this next year, I am excited about the opportunity to pour into the lives of our young adults and to see where God is already at work in shaping this ministry in our community.

WORDS FROM OUR STAFF



Pastor Dan Booker

It has been a joy to connect with and walk alongside the children & families of Bethany this past year. There is always something exciting happening in Children & Family ministry, come find out and join the team!

We continued Sunday morning Christian Formation, Nursery, and Plug-in ministries, where children were introduced to the stories of faith by a tremendous group of leaders & volunteers. We introduced The Grove on Wednesday nights for kids grade 1-5, and FRIDAZE was a blast for kids in grade 4-6. I am excited about furthering the mission of God through FRIDAZE, in growing The Grove, and in making improvements to the Christian Formation format in the coming year.

I have also had the great pleasure of connecting with our prodigious Preschool, our choice Children's Choir, and the commendable COV afterschool program -where I currently serve as board member. All three of these ministries are vital pieces of the life of the church. Additionally, it has been a blessing to have Michelle Anderson as part of the Children & Family Ministry Team. Not only has her experience been a valuable resource, but it has also led her to discern a call into children's ministry. I look forward to continuing to coach Michelle as she follows God's call upon her life.

It is a privilege to serve you and I look forward to deepening the connection with families, resourcing parents and providing space for collaboration with others as they raise up children who become disciples of Christ.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

I'm so excited about all the growth at Bethany this year. We're growing spiritually, with almost 400 people reading the New Testament during Lent, an emphasis on sharing the love of Jesus with our friends who don't yet know Him, and our students emerging with vibrant faith. The children's programs are growing, too. We're growing in numbers, too, with new faces every week and new people joining home groups and becoming members. I'm encouraged when I see our dedicated staff leading us faithfully and our worship solidly centered on scripture. Our vision is growing, too, with our congregation exercising our spiritual gifts in so many ways.

Bethany's diversity is another reason to celebrate, one that comes with a risk of division. One of my biggest prayers for us as a congregation is that while the world around us is increasingly polarized, that we will have healthy relationships and be protected from division and misunderstanding. May we be known by our love for one another and our community.

I am praying also for an even greater thirst for more of God in our spiritual walks, both as individuals and as a congregation. Join me in thanking God for all He is doing among us, and asking Him for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and for unity, that we may be truly one as we seek His face together. that we may be truly one as we seek His face together.

- Russell Sowell, Leadership Team Chair

**INVITED BY JESUS
ENCOURAGED IN COMMUNITY
SENT IN MISSION**



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