



**2018**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*All Things New*





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## WELCOME

In Christ, God is making everything in Heaven and on Earth...NEW! God is always at work, building His Kingdom up for His glory. And soon, the sky above us will roll away like a scroll, and the earth beneath us will vanish from sight, and God will unveil a brand-new universe for His saints to enjoy for eternity. You will be NEW. And the old will be gone for good. While we wait, we praise God as He makes many things new all around us.

2018 was a year filled with NEW people and projects at Harvest. We hired 8 new part-time staff, sent Pastor Jeremy to form a new launch team in St. Cloud, Minnesota, sent a team to help Pastor Alex launch a new church in Kiev, Ukraine, watched Brandon install elders at Harvest Rochester, began a new addition on the building, began a new series in the book of Romans, and welcomed 10 new babies into the church!

We baptized 26 people, welcomed 31 new members, finished the year ahead of budget, collected \$365,493 for the building fund, invested \$145,000 in missions and church planting, brought 4 Ukrainians to Chicago (They love deep-dish!), sent 14 people on hurricane relief trips, placed 71 people in small groups, hosted 185 kids at VBS, and 425 people attended A Night in Bethlehem.

We encountered God as we worshiped Him on Sunday mornings! Our Easter theme was "Lifted Up." Our Christmas theme was "The Joy of All the Earth."

Behold! God is making *all things new*, and we raise our voices with glad songs of praise!

Serving Jesus,  
Pastor Ryan





## REFLECTING ON 2018

*A few weeks ago, I preached a sermon called, "Out with the Old, In with the New." I shared how important it is for believers to transition well from one year to the next. If we take time to reflect, rejoice, repent, ready-up and relax, time will serve God's purpose, and the years won't be squandered.*

As I reflected on 2018, here are some highlights that rose to the top:

### 1. IT WAS A GOOD YEAR.

When we share our hearts with God, we must learn to describe where we are - emotionally, spiritually and physically. That is our starting point. Some years are confusing, others frustrating, some are heart-breaking while others are thrilling. Last year, the blessings piled up, and the hardships calmed down. Thank God for good years!

### 2. A LOT CHANGED.

Sometimes it feels like time is standing still. Some years feel like the tide, rolling in and out on schedule. Other years feel like a rollercoaster as each day surprises us with unexpected turns. A lot changed for my family last year. Our youngest child entered middle school, our oldest child got her license, we celebrated Lauren's 40th birthday (mine was in 2017), Lauren's grandma went to Heaven, and we finally sold a house we owned in the Western suburbs since 2005 (more on that next). At church, we hired 8 part-time staff, sent Jeremy to St. Cloud, launched Vertical Church Kiev and began our Phase 2 project. A lot changed!

### 3. WE SOLD THE HOUSE.

We bought a house in 2005 when I was serving as youth pastor at a church in Wheaton. The housing market crashed, and we were upside down on the mortgage. Year after year, I would look at the "For Sale" sign in our neighbor's yard as I mowed the lawn thinking, "How will we ever sell this house?" Then God called us to plant a church in Palos in 2009. We listed the home, and nobody even came to the open house. We were confused and afraid. We decided to rent it out, despite the landlord horror stories we heard. God brought along a widow with 2 sons who wanted to downsize. She gave us the first year's rent in a single check. We were amazed. Then she did it again, and again, and again...8 years, 8 checks. Last year, she decided to move, and we listed the house. It sold in 3 days (cash offer) and closed in a month! We prayed for a short story, but God wrote a long, amazing story with an epic ending. Praise God for the long stories!

### 4. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM.

Jesus commanded us, "Go and make disciples of all nations." We want to reach people with the Gospel, near and far. 2018 was a great year for outreach. Pastor Alex launched Vertical Church Kiev with 120 people attending their first service. With just 2% of the population being Protestant, this is an important place to launch a healthy church!

Locally, our partnership with NSP (National School Project) continued to bear tremendous fruit. I was invited to a lunch time Q&A session at Richards High School in March, where students rolled in and out for 4 hours. They asked many spiritual questions about life, faith and God. It was riveting. In the Fall, I was invited to share the Gospel at a dodgeball tournament at Shepard High School. I shared my testimony with 70 students in their gym!

### 5. PEOPLE SUFFERED WELL.

Our pastors love helping people through hard times. We make it a priority to be there when people are brought low, sharing God's Word and helping them move forward. I'll never forget when I was in Indianapolis for a meeting, and I got a text saying a man from our church was shot in a random act of violence on I-57. I had a hard time getting information, so I called the man, and he answered his phone from the ambulance, clearly in a lot of pain. "Hey Pastor Ryan! Yeah, I got shot. I'm on my way to the hospital. Pray for me!" I prayed with him, but I was so far away. Our church sprang into action. It was a blessing to see our leaders respond so well. Watching this couple walk with Christ through an agonizing year has been one of the greatest joys of my time in ministry.







## AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

494

*EASTER SUNDAY*

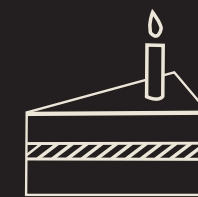
678

26

PEOPLE BAPTIZED

31

*NEW MEMBERS*



*celebrated  
our birthday*

9 YEARS

9/13/18



# WORSHIP CHRIST

Easter Weekend

Our Easter celebrations connected the story of Moses with the death and resurrection of Jesus in the theme "Lifted Up."

On Good Friday, we listened to the story of Nicodemus, the Pharisee who came to Jesus at night to ask Him about eternal life. Jesus told him that "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life" (John 3:14). Nicodemus left that conversation a changed man; he was one of the men who came to help bury Jesus' body after His death. We listened to the story of Jesus' trial, beatings, humiliation, and crucifixion and then rose to speak the words of Isaiah 53 with one voice, "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that brought us peace, and by His bruises we are healed." We then came forward to take communion at the foot of the cross, spending time meditating on the price Jesus paid when He was lifted up.

Easter Sunday was a loud, joyous celebration where we proclaimed that Jesus reigns in victory over sin and death. Our mourning turned into dancing, and we even shot off confetti to rejoice in the great work of God in Christ. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Our eyes are on Jesus still today. We hold on to the hope of Jesus at the cross. We are confident that He is working in our world today. We are waiting for Him to make all things new. The tech team - led by Kevin Pflug, Brad Whitla, and Charlton Young - worked tirelessly to help us worship Jesus in spirit and truth. They created audio and video elements to enhance the services. God has blessed our church with an awesome group of artists who love to serve Christ.

Visual artists from our church created pieces for the "Lifted Up" gallery. Our creative team - especially Cass Becker, Jessie Young, and Andrew Holmes - turned our gym into a place where we could worship Christ in unique ways. The gallery included several "living" pieces that were created over the course of the weekend, including a Wall of Remembrance, a Prayer Wall, and a Thanksgiving Loom. We were invited into the Biblical message that Jesus was lifted up so we could be lifted up from death to new life.

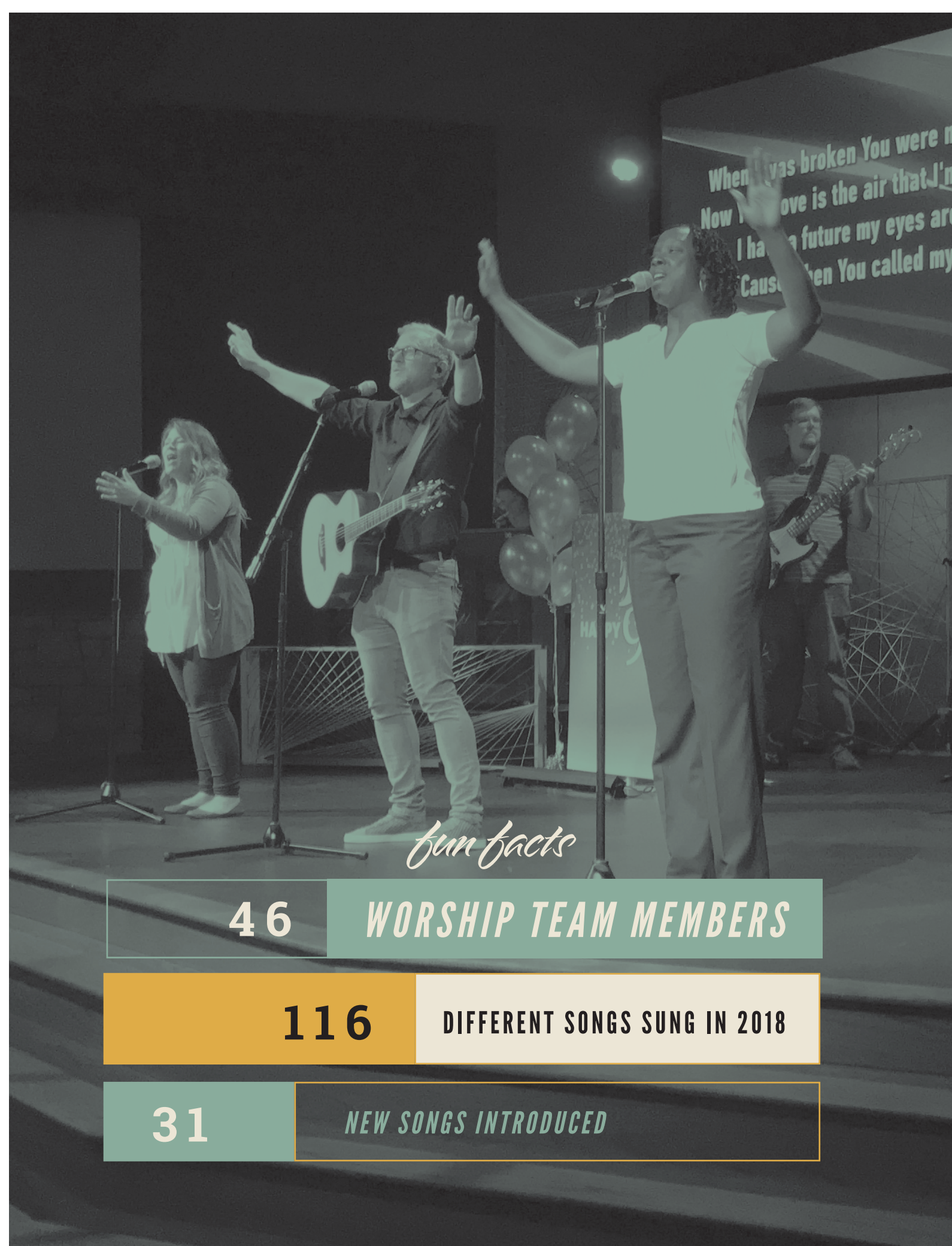
Advent

Our Advent theme "The Joy of All the Earth" came from a hymn by Martin Luther, written in 1535 A.D. The hymn invited us to place ourselves in the manger scene with shepherds, the newborn Jesus, and the distant sound of angels' songs.

To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Throughout December, we read Scriptures that foretold that Jesus would be a light unto the Gentiles, that He is the King in a manger who will rule over the nations in truth and equity. Each Sunday, one of our church planters or missionaries opened the service with a call to worship. It was awesome to see the joy of Jesus proclaimed in Ukraine, Papua New Guinea, New York and Minnesota! God brought the nations to our church, and we loved hearing some of our church members read Advent scriptures in different languages. A highlight of Advent was the Harvest Kids' choir leading us in worship. They learned to sing in Swedish, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish! It is always humbling and moving to see the children worshipping Christ the newborn King! It reminds us that Jesus said we should "receive the kingdom of God like a child," (Mark 10:14). The worship team worked hard to learn a lot of new Christmas music, and they created several songs for our congregation to enjoy. Scott Daimid and Charlton Young wrote the instrumental "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," and Sarah Ly arranged a choral song by Franz Joseph Haydn entitled "Christ Is Born." Praise God for the team He has built at our church!

Our Advent celebrations culminated in the Candlelight services, where we listened to the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. It was a gift to worship together and light candles to rejoice in the Light that pierced the darkness of our world. Our visual artists created an amazing gallery of pieces inspired by different verses from Martin Luther's hymn. What an amazing time of celebration; we are actively waiting on Jesus to return in glory and reign forever. He will make all things new, and the whole earth will be full of the joy of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



Fun Facts

46 WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

116 DIFFERENT SONGS SUNG IN 2018

31 NEW SONGS INTRODUCED



# BAPTISM



*our God is making all things new*

## PJ'S STORY

"I was brought up Catholic. Catholic grade school. Catholic high school. I was an altar boy. I went to church every weekend. I was even the vice president of our youth group in high school. Even though being Catholic was a big part of my life for the first 18 years, I didn't really have a solid relationship with God.

We've been coming to Harvest for about 5 years. I was just along for the ride with my wife Beth and my son Jack until last year. Pastor Ryan said something at the end of one of the services. He said, 'If you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, and you believe He died for all of your sins, stand up.' And I did. I was saved on that day.

So here I am today being baptized, because I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord, my Savior. He bore our sins in his body on the tree that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. I've been doing things my way for the last 52 years. It's time for me to do things His way from now on."

*I'VE BEEN DOING THINGS MY WAY FOR THE LAST 52 YEARS.  
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO DO THINGS HIS WAY.*

## BRITTANY'S STORY

"Before, I didn't understand why my family was so adamant about attending church every Sunday, or why having a relationship with Jesus was important, or why they wanted to get baptized when they already had in the Catholic church. In college, my softball team had a chaplain, and I told him I didn't understand how he could feel God's presence. I had noticed how much my family had changed since first coming to Harvest and finding God, but I figured that it just wasn't for me. I grew up in the Catholic church and did all the ceremonies, so I figured I was good. I didn't really think about what happens after you die. Plus I'm 26, I have plenty of time to figure it out when I want to.

And then about 2 1/2 months ago I found out I have a rare autoimmune disease that can one day destroy my lungs, and deform my skin and wreak havoc on other parts of my body. I was filled with worry, anxiety, fear and confusion. After a week of tears, anxiety attacks and hopelessness, my mom and I went to see *I Can Only Imagine*, and then she talked to me about God and Jesus and being saved.

The next day, I woke up feeling hopeless and realized I couldn't continue to live like this. I was laying in my bed with my cat Gilly, and I looked at her and grabbed both of her paws. She tried to pull one away, because cats don't like that. But I told her we are doing this together, and she seemed to accept that, because she let me hold her paws. For the first time in probably 15 years, I prayed, and it went something like, 'Hey God, it's me Brittany. It's been a long time, sorry about that. I'm really scared. Actually, I'm terrified of this diagnosis. But that's not it. I'm unhappy in my relationships, unsatisfied with my job, and unfulfilled with my life. I've been doing this my way, and clearly it's not working. So I'm handing my life over to you, because I can't live like this, and I can't do this on my own. Please help me. Please save me.'

I later called a good friend who works in ministry at our church, and she prayed that I would feel God's overwhelming and suffocating love. And I did, because I cried for 6 days straight, and it wasn't about my diagnosis.

And now I can see that my diagnosis was God yelling at me, 'Hey I'm not in your life!' I don't know what it would have taken for me to want a relationship with Jesus if I wouldn't have been diagnosed with this.

The past 9 weeks have been the most difficult in my life with additional health diagnoses for me, health issues with my mom and brother, a health scare with my dad and aunt, my roommate who is also my cousin getting diagnosed with cancer, and having 2 weeks where I didn't know where I would be living. Despite all that, it has also been the happiest time of my life. I enjoyed showing up to work everyday, I loved every moment I spent with the girls I coached, I got a new job, and appreciated every moment I got to spend with friends and family. I have felt overwhelming love and hope from God and from those around me. I've had lots of, 'Did I really just say that?' and 'I can't believe I'm doing this!' moments. If you would have told me I'd be going to Christian concerts, watching the sermons online, donating to K-Love, and getting baptized, I would have laughed at you. But that moment praying with my sweet little cat changed everything. Now I understand why having a relationship with Jesus is important. And my heart yearns to be at church and to be surrounded by God-loving and fearing people. For the first time in my life I want a relationship with God. And that's why I'm here; to publicly proclaim I am a sinner, and Jesus died for my sins and proudly say that Christ has saved me, and I want to live my life for Him."

*I NOW SEE THAT MY DIAGNOSIS WAS GOD YELLING  
AT ME, "I'M NOT IN YOUR LIFE."*

## WALK WITH CHRIST

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age."

TITUS 2:11-12

*A year of new growth*

Multiplication of more and better disciples and ministries is the heartbeat of our church. It's thrilling to see more and better small groups, service teams, leaders, baptisms, and new members...leading to more and better churches! Take a minute to pray for Pastor Jeremy planting a church in St. Cloud, MN.

262

SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

53

HOPE GROUP MEMBERS

28

DIVORCE CARE

88

EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

19

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

195

MEN'S RALLIES ATTENDEES

50

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEMBERS

70

FAMILY CAMP

33

CREATION MUSEUM/ARK TRIP

growth highlights

## NEW GROWTH

STEP 1

99

STEP 2

86

NEW MEMBERS

31

BAPTISM

26

WELCOME TO LEADERSHIP

38

ADDED TO SMALL GROUPS

71

Participating in the STEPS to connecting at Harvest Palos is like having a backstage pass, giving you the sense that something special is about to go down. When participating in STEP 2, you realize that many of the people in the room will be our next super volunteers and small group members, and some will become ministry and small group leaders! If you have attended Harvest Palos for a while but haven't come to STEP 1 or STEP 2, make this your year! Go deeper with the Lord and His people here and connect with our discipleship plan, so you can reach your full potential and have a great year of spiritual growth!







## HOPE GROUPS

Our 14-week HOPE group is designed to help you work through difficulties in your life in a manner that both glorifies God and helps you overcome your situation. This Fall, we completed our 4th HOPE group as a church. Participants were asked at the end of the class about any next steps or changes they wanted to see happen. Their responses included: give God my complaints first, be transparent with my husband and be forgiving, be intentional in growing my relationship with Christ, build a stronger marriage, pray intentionally for my children, reach out to my family who have strayed from God, build a stronger community of friends who are Christian believers, boldly share the gospel with others, invite neighbors to church, and pursue leadership training. The Lord is transforming people in a variety of ways through HOPE groups. We are grateful for these opportunities to disciple our people to worship/walk/work for Christ during and after trials and pain.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



We've experienced an exciting year seeing Harvest women engage with the Lord. Our Spring 2018 **BIBLE STUDIES** were focused on being rooted and established in Christ as we dug deep into Psalm 107. In the Fall, we launched our new theme, "Image Bearers," which focused on pressing in to know the Creator. We began offering 2 different studies with varying homework levels to bring options to our participants. Bible study is a primary focus of Women's Ministry, and we praise God that we can study His Word with so many participants.

We held **6 EVENTS FOR SINGLE WOMEN** that included great fellowship and devotionals, bonfires, and a camping trip. **MOM'S NIGHT OUT** also met 6 times this year and explored a variety of topics that encourage moms in their very important role of shaping children. We also honored Heather Ritzema (who was a part of our leadership team) with a farewell party.

In the Spring, women were invited to take a **SELF-DEFENSE CLASS** led by Adrienne Seiber. Adrienne brought her experience of teaching at the Police Academy to teach Harvest women techniques in self-defense and safety.

For our **ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**, we collected warm clothing for Ukrainian orphans. All together, we provided 1743 clothing items and \$1465 for shoes.

God graciously taught us new ways of serving our women this year, and we are trusting Him for awesome times of growth in 2019.

147

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ATTENDEES

1743

ITEMS OF CLOTHING COLLECTED FOR UKRAINIAN ORPHANS



# HARVEST KIDS

Every ministry year has its own identity, leaving a specific impression or mark. Some are years of growth, some are challenging, some are filled with new adventures and plans. For Children's Ministry, 2018 was a year of building on some of our greatest foundational elements, and celebrating that even in the strengthening of what's already established, God is doing new things in our midst.

In January, our Harvest Kids team grew by a third, going from 4 to 6 teams of volunteers. This means a more workable schedule for volunteers, but more importantly, it means that 25 new individuals came alongside kids to teach them God's word and share the love of Jesus in 2018!

In the Fall, we launched the next 3-year cycle of The Gospel Project curriculum, which means we will take the kids chronologically through the entire Bible over that time period. Starting this new cycle also gave us the opportunity to bring in some fresh design elements to the Kids' wing as well, which adds greater impact to the lessons, and visual excellence to the classrooms.

The kids were challenged to "...sing to the Lord a new song" in December by learning multiple languages for our Christmas service. Their efforts, as well as those of the Harvest Kids worship team, led by Heidi Jasien, resulted in a beautiful celebration of God's heart for the global church. Several adults shared how they were moved by the kids' performance.



## HARVEST KIDS

**90** AVG. WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

**25** NEW TEAM MEMBERS

**70** VOLUNTEERS

**12** CHECK-IN TEAM



## AWANA

**80** WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

**40** VOLUNTEERS

In the Awana program, we celebrated significant growth and progress in a few ways. First, one of our best-loved events is the Grand Prix, and clubbers and parents alike look forward to the excitement of the race. This year God came through in a big way when, after a few nail-biting days wondering if we would have a racetrack, one was donated to our church, and is even bigger and better than the track we had borrowed in previous years!

The end of the Awana program in the Spring was a true celebration of the clubbers' efforts and love for God and His word. We celebrated 60 kids completing their handbooks, which takes serious dedication, and means that these kids memorized more verses in a year than most adults do in their lifetime. Through their dedication to God's word, the children are learning what it means in Ephesians 4:24 when Paul says to "...put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Finishing their handbooks means more than reaching a goal or receiving a prize, it means knowing and applying the life-changing truths of Scripture!

A significant development for the launch of the Fall Awana program came with hiring Cass Becker as Awana Director. Cass has already taken the program to new heights by adding a lot of fun and creative elements, building the Awana team, and strengthening parent involvement. One of the most successful additions to the Awana calendar was the Praise, Prayer and Pie Night in October, when parents and children gathered at the church to pray and worship together, followed by a sweet time of fellowship and dessert in the gym.

## VBS

**185** ATTENDANCE

**100** VOLUNTEERS

Game On VBS in 2018 took us to the stadium, where kids learned what it means to be on Jesus' team. Year after year, we celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives as we see kids respond to the gospel during VBS. God's word in Ezekiel 36:26 is evident during this week, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you..."

Our VBS worship team did an awesome job bringing energy and creativity to the stage during the Opening and Closing Rallies! The kids love to participate in the games and music during VBS, and they're always scrambling to volunteer to join the leaders on stage. Our skit crew brought their characters to life as they helped the kids understand that God's desire is for everyone to be on His team.

We had a phenomenal team of volunteers who directed each station, which included games, crafts, snacks and teaching. The group leaders did a fantastic job focusing on their group of kids for the week, making sure they had fun and understood the truth of God's word as they guided them through the stations. Our Bible teachers brought the stories for the week to life for the kids, so that even the youngest kids could understand that the Word of God is living and active.

The biggest new element, and best part of the week, was the Family Celebration Night where we held a block party on our parking lot and invited all VBS families to join us! The VBS volunteers brought their A game to this event by creating games and activities that kept the families engaged, and also allowed a lot of time to connect. We were able to serve families and build relationships with them through this event.

## A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

**425** ATTENDEES

**80** VOLUNTEERS

Our third year of A Night in Bethlehem was a memorable celebration of Jesus' birth, as we took over 400 people through this hands-on experience. Many volunteers, veterans and new alike, committed their time and effort to create an unforgettable night for our guests. People traveled through Bethlehem and its many shops and booths, learning what life was like for the people of that time. Once again, we were thrilled to have live animals join us, and the donkey and llama that wandered around Bethlehem made quite an impression on many visitors! Some families who visited were returning for the third year in a row, and told us how their children look forward to this event all year, and even play 'Bethlehem' at home with the keepsakes they make.

We introduced some new features to the final stop of the tour, the Stable, where we can clearly share the miracle of Christ's birth. This year, a shepherd shared his account of seeing angels in the sky, and townspeople gathered around the manger to worship Christ, which made the moment especially moving. The worship team led the people in singing beautiful Christmas music, Mary and Joseph told their story of radical obedience, and Pastor Ryan shared the gospel from the perspective of a wiseman. It was a joy to offer an event to the community that helps us all focus on Jesus during Christmas, and to see so many people happily volunteer to serve.



# HARVEST STUDENTS



<b>55</b>	<i>WEEKLY ATTENDANCE</i>
<b>33</b>	<b>SUMMER CAMP</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>WINTERFEST</b>

**BACK TO THE 80s**



## FROM PASTOR RYAN

With Pastor Jeremy heading to St. Cloud, I began leading the student ministry in the Fall. I've enjoyed teaching the High School students a series on "Conversation Killers - Tough Questions People Ask About God." Then we began a series called, "Running with the Giants," which focuses on heroes of the Old Testament. The leader team is doing a tremendous job caring for the sheep while we pray for the new youth pastor to arrive. Be sure to thank them!

## FROM PASTOR JEREMY

In the five years I was privileged to serve as the youth pastor, one night stands out above the rest. Those that were there only need to hear two words to bring them back to that memorable night: The Veil. God gave us a vision through His Word to create a night that put the gospel on display for all to see and behold. The team (especially Cass Becker) rallied behind the idea and worked hard to make it a reality. When students arrived, they were greeted by a veil covering the whole stage, representing the veil that separated the people from the presence of God in the Holy of Holies. We spent the evening reflecting on the holiness of God, the personal and communal nature of our sins, and how Jesus came to bring us into the presence of God. Many of us woke up the next morning still in a state of worship remembering how the veil had torn, symbolizing our unity with God for eternity. Some youth ministry nights were about community, others about accountability. Some nights were about teaching. But for just one night, we forgot all of that and just tried to get a taste of heaven...and we did!



## WORK FOR CHRIST

"Jesus gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works."

**TITUS 2:14**

*A year of new opportunities*

"Zealous for good works." That phrase should reverberate in our hearts. We can never outgive Christ, and His example as a servant is unmatched. But we can be zealous for good works. Imagine someone comes up to you in Heaven and says, "You lived in the time of the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit in human history. What was your part in it?" Our 2018 Work For Christ efforts included outbursts of love and good deeds, random and deliberate acts of kindness, steady and faithful service, and uncontainable compassion toward people here, near, and far. By God's grace, and through His strength, may 2019 be our best year ever! What will be your part in it?

**408**

**VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ON 20 MINISTRY TEAMS**

**193**

**GO TEAM VOLUNTEERS SERVING AT 8 EVENTS**

**205**

**BOXES SENT TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

**14**

**PEOPLE WHO SERVED ON 2 HURRICANE RELIEF TRIPS**

*celebrating*



# ONE HARBOR CHURCH



## HIGHLIGHT

9 people went to the east coast of North Carolina in December for a Hurricane Florence relief trip. We asked them what they wanted to see happen back home because of their time serving on the coast.

I want to be more intentional in my church and community to take time to really get to know people and love them

To be more intentional in dedicating smaller things to God

I want to apply some of the skills that I learned on this trip with my neighbors, family, and friends that are in need of help

I want to do mission work in my future; I pray that this fire in my heart for God will be fueled, and that I will share these amazing moments with my friends to show them how big our God is

I want to be known for my prayers like that group was down here - stopping and taking prayer to the streets and neighborhoods

To show the love and patience I had down here back home



# MISSIONS AND CHURCH PLANTING

## JEREMY & HEATHER RITZEMA

Jeremy served on staff at Harvest Palos for five years as our youth pastor. Our church sent him in Fall of 2018 to plant a church in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Jeremy and his wife Heather are receiving training through Great Commission Collective as they build a Core Group that will help them launch their church.



## BRANDON & SHANNON CAPUANO

Brandon served on staff at Harvest Palos for 4 years before we sent him out to plant a church in Rochester, NY, in 2016. In 2018, Harvest Rochester began meeting in a new location that has helped grow the church, and they installed their very first elder.



## MIKE & TERRY KIJOWSKI

Mike and Terry were part of Harvest Palos from the very beginning in 2009. Mike served as an elder before we sent him to Romania to train church planters and help strengthen existing churches. Mike coordinated the Training Center in Arad, graduating 6 men who have gone out to plant churches in 4 countries across Europe.



## MATT & TIFFANY CROSLAND

The Croslands train Bible translators in Papua New Guinea, a country with 839 unique language groups. In 2018 PILAT (Pacific Institute of Language, Arts & Translation) served the largest number of students and languages in its history.



## MIKE & KEILA DAWSON

Mike and Keila are missionaries in the Amazon jungle in Venezuela. They share the Gospel with remote groups of Yanomamö, who have preserved their ancient way of life deep in the jungle. They have served faithfully in Venezuela through turbulent political and economic conditions, and continually see God saving those who hear the good news of Jesus.



## ALEX & ANYA TARASOV

Pastor Alex and his core group started a brand new church - the first GCC church plant in Ukraine - in March of 2018. Harvest Palos sent two teams to Ukraine to help train leaders and strengthen our relationships there. Then in the Fall, we brought Alex and 3 of his leaders to the States to attend a church leadership conference and to spend time with us at Harvest Palos.



Harvest Palos is part of an international family of churches that exists to glorify God by planting, strengthening, and multiplying Great Commission Churches around the world. There are **128 GCC MEMBER CHURCHES.**

US: 59 LOCATIONS  
CANADA: 17 LOCATIONS  
INTERNATIONAL: 52 LOCATIONS



RZIM has offices in the US, Canada, Peru, Africa, the United Kingdom, Spain, Romania, Turkey, the Middle East, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Australia. Each Month RZIM speakers engage with over **20,000 PEOPLE IN 12 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES** and content reaches **600,000 USERS ONLINE.**



During the 2017-2018 school year:

SCHOOLS: 94 SCHOOLS COACHED  
EVANGELISTIC OUTINGS: 127  
RALLIES: 202  
STUDENTS ATTENDING RALLIES: 14,978  
DECISIONS INDICATED FOR CHRIST: 1,087

NATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT

# 2018 OPERATIONS BREAKDOWN

RECEIVED IN TITHES & OFFERINGS **\$1,093,232**

EXPENSES **\$1,065,834**

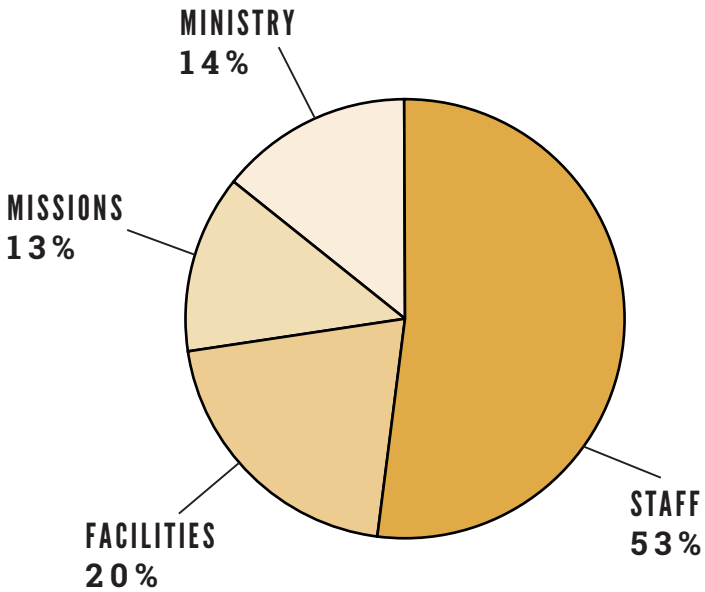
STAFFING EXPENSES	\$577,350
MINISTRY EXPENSES	\$114,221
OUTREACH EXPENSES	\$115,020
FACILITIES AND OFFICE EXPENSES	\$259,243

**ADDITIONAL MISSIONS SUPPORT**

SAVINGS APPLIED TO MISSIONS	\$30,000
<i>CROSLANDS</i>	\$10,000
<i>RZIM</i>	\$5,000
<i>UKRAINE</i>	\$5,000
<i>NSP</i>	\$10,000

**BENEVOLENCE**

<b>INCOME</b>	
<i>BENEVOLENCE OFFERING</i>	\$8,964
<i>SAVINGS APPLIED TO BENEVOLENCE</i>	\$1,053
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<i>MEDICAL/DENTAL</i>	\$1,200
<i>AUTO</i>	\$1,596
<i>GROCERIES</i>	\$21
<i>RENT</i>	\$7,200



## BUILDING FUND REVIEW

Before we launched the church in 2009, we prayed for our FIRST facility. After going 0-13 on prospects, a church near Moraine Valley Community College offered to rent their building to us. We saved thousands of dollars, because the church let us use their equipment and store our things on site. After a year, we outgrew that location. We were delighted when Stagg High School allowed us to rent their performing arts center. Having a full-sized theater allowed our worship team to dream big and develop beautiful, high-impact services. We were still renters, so we were often surprised by unexpected scheduling conflicts. One weekend, the parking lot was full when we arrived for church. Nobody told us about a regional wrestling tournament! The building was full of spandex-clad youth and their enthusiastic parents. Our people had to park near the football field and walk forever to find the service. Another Sunday we met in the gym, and someone forgot to turn the heat down, so it felt like a giant sauna. This motivated us to purchase a place of our own.

We formed a facility search team, and after a 2-year hunt, we purchased our current building. It was in rough shape! Two furnaces were broken, none of the HVAC was updated, the roof was leaking badly, and the worship center was decorated for 1989. Our church rallied to the challenge, gave generously, showed up for work days, and renovated much of the building. We knew more work had to be done, so we began planning the next phase.

Last year, we launched Phase 2: "Building Faith." Just as Moses built the Tabernacle in the desert as a portrait of faith in God, so we are demonstrating our faith through this project. People are giving generously and offering their skills to bring the cost down. Our primary goals are to finish updating the HVAC, replace the parking lot, add two new bathrooms, 4 new offices, a conference room, plenty of storage, remove asbestos and replace the gym floor. All these needs will end up costing us more money if we delay, so we are hard at work.

God demonstrated His wisdom and love by providing us with great places to worship Him. We aim to show our gratitude by being great stewards of His resources and by giving generously in response to all He has provided.



# BUILDING FUND 2018

<b>PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$689,832</b>
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>\$365,493</b>

## PHASE 2 BUDGET

ARCHITECT FEES	\$65,000
ESCROW	\$5,000
SITE WORK	\$35,800
STRUCTURAL	\$263,990
CARPENTRY	\$152,142
ROOFING	\$43,760
DOORS FRAMES	\$23,500
FLOORING	\$61,640
PLUMBING	\$103,038
HVAC	\$39,000
SECURITY	\$10,460
ELECTRICAL	\$50,000
GYM RENOVATION	\$90,230
PARKING LOT	\$90,000
KIDS AREA	\$5,000
OFFICE	\$26,684
MANAGEMENT & FEES	\$178,237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,243,481</b>

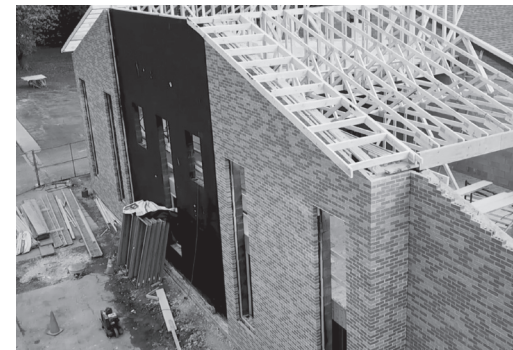
## Stagg High School



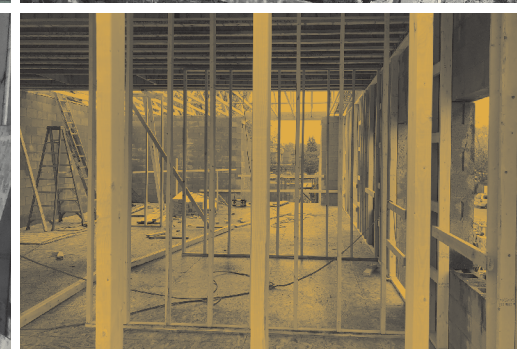
## Phase 1



## Phase 2



## Launch Day







**"And he who was seated on the throne  
said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'  
Also he said, 'Write this down, for what I  
tell you is trustworthy and true.'"**

**Revelation 21:5**



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