

Newbury Park First Christian Church

# 2017 Annual Reports

Staff Ministry Reports

## Lead Pastor, Dr. Ken LaMont 2017 Annual Ministry Report

**At NPFCC we are committed to, “Developing fully committed followers of Christ who are seeking and saving the lost.”** It is our desire to be a place where people can Encounter God, Build Community, and Extend Compassion.

In 2017 here are a few ways we have seen these things happen:

We have **Encountered God** through dynamic weekend services – We began the year with a series on our vision and strategy that set us on a great course for the year. We discovered How to Be Rich and worship the Lord in our stewardship of all He has blessed us with and even empties our storage units, garages and closets to help loosen the grip our stuff has on us and use what we have for the Kingdom. We worked through many of Jesus amazing Parables and were able to see the picture of the Kingdom of God that Jesus reveals to us in these amazing stories. We were also able to see some of our gifted artists put the parables to canvas for us. We also spent time in the Old Testament book of Judges learning that we must hold tight to God’s commands and not allow ourselves to be moved off course by the surrounding culture. Through powerful times of praise, prayer and time in the Word, we are a worshipping body that is passionate to live God’s Word in our daily lives.

We are **Building Community**: Realizing that we are not called to be church attenders but rather disciples of Jesus that experience life with Him we began the Rooted Experience in 2017. This 10-week discipleship experience is designed to connect people to Christ and the church by helping them both learn and live out what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Rooted also serves as a pathway to help people get connected to NPFCC and especially into a Life Group. Life Groups are a place where deep relationships are forged and spiritual growth happens as we study God’s Word and simply do life together. If you aren’t in a Life Group encourage you to jump in! We have also built community through amazing times of fellowship.

In 2017 NPFCC has **Extended Compassion**: In January I had the privilege of traveling to Cambodia with Barry Kirschenmann to serve with Hope for Cambodia and teach over 200 pastors and church leaders. Our Mexico team built a small dwelling for Niño’s de Baja in March. We had our third annual Serve Day Sunday where we served in several locations cleaning, building, repairing and sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors. I also had the privilege of being part of a team that headed to Houston, Texas where we joined with Cross Bridge Christian Church to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. 2017 has been a year of political turmoil, devastating natural disasters, terror attacks both at home and abroad, even in our churches. We are witnesses to the brokenness of our world and the devastating effects of sin. This is why we exist! To see lives, families, communities and our world transformed through the power of the Good News of Jesus Christ. We celebrate all God has done in 2017 and look forward to all he will do in and through us in 2018.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ken

## **Associate Pastor, Devan Bumstead 2017 Annual Ministry Report**

The worship ministry has had a fantastic year! We've added and developed new praise team and tech team members, added technology that helps the band maintain consistency and professionalism in its sound, given new leaders more opportunities to lead, continued working towards creating services that are intentional and thematically unified, added new songs into our rotation that advance our cause of reaching the next generation while maintaining a core song selection that values the past, and so much more! One of the biggest wins this year has been transitioning Brendan Wein (our previous worship intern) to college at Hope International University as he pursues his calling to full time ministry. At the same time, we brought on Dylan Reynolds as a ministry intern as he pursues his calling into ministry! We've been blessed to have some high level leaders over the last few years that add value and talent to the ministry and church as a whole. It also shows that our ministry is highly valued and appreciated by future leaders.

On the technology side, we had to work through some sound system failures that shed light on our aging systems. Through this process we began exploring the possibility of replacing our systems, bringing in professional consultants to show us some equipment that could both be incredibly reliable for decades to come and help us continue to reach for excellence in our sound. For now, we were able to fix the main issue but it's a matter of time before a major repair or replacement is needed.

We were also able to complete our new drum enclosure this year which has provided us incredible isolation and much more control than ever before. This allows us to achieve a much more balanced sound, vocal clarity, instrument separation, and the ability to keep our overall volume at the level we want. Overall it has been a huge win for our sound! We hope your experience benefited from it!

On a personal level, bringing a new baby into our family has been an incredible experience. Hard but great. And through it, we've begun working to create a non-profit organization called Adopt Hope which will provide assistance for future families seeking to adopt! Exciting things ahead, stay tuned!

## **Teaching Pastor, Jim Buckley 2017 Annual Report**

2017 was a full and exciting year serving you as Teaching Pastor, continuing to teach locally at NPFCC and internationally with TCM. ON a recent trip to Austria and Ukraine, I taught two classes with a total of 20 students from countries like Russia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Czech Republic. Glenda was with me at Haus Edelweiss as a short-term worker. In addition, the Lord opened up doors to preach in Austria, Ukraine, Brazil and at three different churches in Ventura County.

Our Home Pointe team's passion is to continue working to have Jesus in every heart and home 24/7.

Our A-Team (senior ministry) had various luncheons and outings, but a highlight was hosting a gathering of 150 people in our Family Life Center when Pastor Rob McCoy of GodSpeak Church spoke about holding to the foundation of our country, church and Christian lives – the Bible.

As part of our Family Ministry, NPFCC's Marriage Class meets each Sunday with Curtis and Cat James leading. (Glenda and I help.) Our goal is to help marriages grow. Exciting things are happening – check out this Sunday class.

What a joy to serve you in the NPFCC family, locally and around the world for Jesus.

Pastor Jim Buckley

## **Family Life Center Director, Joe Kirk 2017 Annual Report**

Blessings continue to flow because of the faithfulness of our church family in their decision to build the Family Life Center.

Blessings for our community -

- by opening classrooms to all ages, teaching biblical truths of life.
- by providing blankets and clothing to many ministries who give to families in need.
- by distributing food to those less fortunate that provides daily nourishment.
- by providing space so the Christmas story can be shared by many who give toys, who pray, and who display God's love and hope.
- by providing a great gymnasium for sporting events, each bringing with them families, friends and neighbors who experience the love of Jesus
- by feeding choir members along with our church family, touching not only them, but families and friends

Blessings given to us by a loving Jesus, being displayed through His family, sharing with both those who know Him, or will know Him for their eternal future.

In His Name,  
Joe Kirk

## **Children's Ministry Director, Crystal Stenner 2017 Annual Report**

Children's Ministry always has something FUN going on!! We started off our year with Winter Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders up at Angeles Crest. Then we had our awesome Community Egg Hunt and Walk Through Holy Week Festival for Easter. LIFT continues to be a wonderful outreach to our community, having an average of 75 kids join us on Wed nights in Spring and Fall...of which, most are from outside churches or do not have church affiliations at all. Our Summer VBS broke the 200 kids mark!! We had over 20 area churches represented for this wonderful program that reaches so many! Fall brings our annual Trunk or Treat event, which was packed with more than 1000 in attendance again this year...so awesome! Throughout the year we have special extras like our Child Dedication Sundays & our Children's Baptism Classes. Our Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> grade class continually works on various service projects for our community. We run the Kids Shoppe at Christmas Shoppe here on the NPFCC campus for 100's of families in December.

Our children's programs bring so many families together, create lasting friendships and grow BOTH the children and adults involved throughout the year. Our ministry is abundantly blessed with the most awesome volunteers. We have about 70 different volunteers covering our Sunday and LIFT programs each month. We are incredibly blessed with each person that helps out for regular events & so many additional people who help at our special events. You are all so greatly treasured!!!

I am so thankful for the support we receive for this ministry that is crucial for our future generations!! I am so excited to see what 2018 brings for our ministry. Thank you for helping make 2017 so wonderful!! To Him be the glory in all we do in our ministry!!

Joyfully following His lead,  
*Crystal*

## **Impact Student Ministries Director, Shawn Saiger 2017 Annual Report**

Student Ministries is an ever-growing piece of NPFCC and it was such an honor to be a part of it in 2017. Student Ministries is a tough cookie to describe seeing that each group of teenagers is so different from another, however, our students and leader's unique qualities are all rooted in discipleship and service. Throughout the year IMPACT has had many times when our young people have excelled in serving those around them. Whether on a youth trip/event a mission trip to Mexico or an all Church serve day, middle school and high school students seem to shine the brightest! I find it life giving to see them serving others with a heart that resembles Jesus.

2017 can most certainly be described in a positive light with a great deal of growth in spirituality within youth and our all-around involvement when it comes to the intersecting groups that take part in Student Ministries, i.e. students (6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade), leader/volunteers, and parents. It is always an honor to be a part of baptisms and proclamations of faith with which I have taken part in this year. Equally, strengthening the bond between Student Ministries and parents has proven to build up our ministries resolve and mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who seek and save the lost. Additionally, the leader volunteers involved in IMPACT cannot go unrecognized for the countless hours and hard work put into event planning, decorating, traveling, game playing, hair braiding, grace giving, Jesus teaching and much more. Thank you to each of these groups that make this ministry what it is.

However positive this year can be described, like any other it was not without adversity. Thinking of new and challenging ways to teach students the ways of scripture while also taking into consideration the busyness of school, sports, sleep deprivation, growing freedoms, familial predicaments, and a general apathetic approach to anything that resembles homework remains to be a difficult task and keep leadership on its toes (not always a bad thing). The good news is, through perseverance in Jesus, I know that true heart change and true growth will continue to occur within this Student Ministry. Therefore, I revere the past and look forward to the future and the continued and unique challenges this culture of students will bring to this ministry and the Kingdom of God.

Shawn Saiger,  
Director of Student Ministries

## **Little Steps Preschool Director, Clarissa Schuyler 2017 Annual Ministry Report**

Wow, what can I say but that the last year has flown by. I am truly blessed to be part of this Preschool Staff and Church Family as a whole. I am very pleased to report that this year we have added two new staff members to our team and they have been an outstanding addition to our staff. I cannot wait to see what the Lord has in store for us come 2018.

Little Steps Preschool has had an increase in enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. We started off this school year in September with 62 students and we now have 64 as of December. We have only one spot left in our afternoon program and 3 open for preschool only. We have 5 classrooms open: 1 two-year-old room, 2 three-year-old rooms and 2 Pre-K rooms.

We have loved working with the Pastoral Staff for big events like Trunk or Treat, our Christmas Tree Lighting, and the amazing VBS. We also love the simpler connections when they come and lead a monthly chapel story or say a prayer for our Thanksgiving Feast. I feel so blessed to be part of this ministry of Newbury Park First Christian Church. The children we teach are the doors and windows to the families we provide care for. Together we will reach out into homes share God's great story through the eyes of children!!!