

2017 Annual Report



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2017 Annual Report

(Annual Meeting, February 11, 2018)

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2017 Officers

Chairman

Chad Lynch

Secretary

Rosie Hughes

Financial Secretary

Karen Snuffer

Treasurer

Ellen Baldacci

2017 Ministry Deacons

Facilities and Grounds

Greg Green

Worship in Arts

Andy Platt



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Chairman's Report

Dear Applewood Community Church Family,

One word that has stuck in my mind this year and has been a big part of AWCC is "family." As I prepare to go on a mission trip in the coming months, I have been thinking about how there are brothers and sisters in Christ I have met across the globe that feel like family to me. I am looking forward to seeing them and worshiping God together with them, as I do with you all each week at Applewood. As the body of Christ we are called to unity and care for each other. The feeling of family at AWCC pervades everything we do and helps us to live our lives more fully devoted to following Jesus Christ.

One of the family-oriented events from 2017 that holds a special place in my heart is our baptism service. My daughter, Abby, along with Ellie Wallace, chose to be baptized and make a public profession of faith. Our usual baptism plans were altered, and we all ended up huddled outside in the cold and rain, singing praise, to support these two young girls. What a special family gathering!

Over the last four years I have had the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Council at AWCC and have had the pleasure of serving with some incredible, godly people. At our Annual Meeting this year, we will be voting on making a change from the current council structure to a leadership team. The idea of this leadership team is that those in ministry can be more focused on doing ministry that they are passionate about, and those in leadership can

participate in more prayer and seeking the will of the Holy Spirit for our church. After over a year of praying and talking about it the Council recommends this change and is excited to see this next phase for our church upon its approval from the congregation. The Council has been another facet of family in our church, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with each of its members. Thank you to the congregation for this opportunity. I will continue to pray for the new leadership team members.

The staff at AWCC are a big part of pulling us all together as family each week and through the work they do during the week. We get to come to church each Sunday, knowing that we are loved by them and by each other. Let us continue to lift them up in prayer this year and support their work for the Lord.

My family and church family are such a big part of my life, and I could not imagine life without them. Thank you to each and every one of you for what you do for our church, for the community, and for the kingdom of God.

*Sincerely with the grace of God,
Chad Lynch*

// One word that has stuck in my mind this year and has been a big part of AWCC is "family."

Letter from the President of the Evangelical Covenant Church



The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather for your congregational meeting, let me say how grateful I am for the partnership we share in this movement we call the Evangelical Covenant Church.

You are one of more than 850 Covenant congregations within our 11 regional conferences in the United States and Canada. Together, we are impacting millions of lives both here and around the world in some 40 additional countries. We do it by pursuing five priorities. Together, we start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, and serve globally.

Our partnership is designed to be three-strand strong, the intertwining of congregation – Conference – Covenant. Indeed, 3StrandStrong is an emphasis you can find more about at covchurch.org, as well discover more about the impact we make together.

All of this is possible only because of your partnership and God's faithfulness. As you gather today to reflect on the many ways God is using your congregation, remember that one of those ways is through your engagement with this network of Covenant churches.

Finally, a personal word. I will be retiring next summer after 10 years in this office, and 42 years altogether of Covenant ministry. The Covenant is where I came to faith as a high school student. It is the community that has continually nurtured my own growth as a follower of Christ, and that of my family. It is the Church whose dedication to God's mission has been so central to my own vocation. It is the relational center for so very many of our deepest and most cherished relationships. Thank you for the honor of serving, and thank you for helping to make the Covenant the special fellowship that it is. I am confident God will raise up gifted and godly leadership for a faithful and fruitful future for the Covenant. I will do whatever is helpful for a smooth transition as that time approaches.

Together, may we always seek to go deeper in Christ and further in mission.

In Christ,

Gary Walter
President

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ECC Affirmations

- Centrality of the word of God.
- Necessity of the new birth.
- Commitment to the whole mission of the church.
- Church as a fellowship of believers.
- Conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- Reality of freedom in Christ.

ECC Mission Priorities

- Start and Strengthen Churches
- Make and Deepen Disciples
- Develop Leaders
- Love Mercy, Do Justice
- Serve Globally

Letter from the Superintendent of the Midwest Conference of the ECC



November 2017

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the amazing work God is doing throughout the Midwest Conference, I am deeply grateful for your commitment to living out our shared mission to transform lives and communities. I am truly blessed to partner with you in ministry!

This has been an especially exciting year as we have embraced a God-sized, 10-year vision to reach 8000 more disciples, through 140 churches, with 25% of those churches being ethnic or multi-ethnic, with increased gender diversity (30% of credentialed ministers and at least 15% of lead or co-lead pastors being female). As we shared this vision with pastors this past spring and gained feedback from delegates to the Annual Ministry Celebration, it became clear that MWC staff needed to reflect what we are trying to accomplish through this vision. As a result, we recently welcomed to the team David Williams, Director of Connection and Development; Patty Thompson, Director of Prayer and Leadership Mobilization; and Fil Nesta, Director of Hispanic Ministries. I have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic welcome of new staff by pastors and church leadership as we have traveled the conference this fall.

Your encouragement, perseverance in prayer, and generous partnership are essential to realizing this shared vision. I invite you to join us at the Annual Ministry Celebration to be held at Grace Place in Berthoud, Colorado, on April 20-21, 2018, where we will celebrate the steps churches have taken to accomplish the good work God has called us to.

As your congregation gathers for its own Annual Meeting, I pray that it, too, will be a celebration of all that God is doing within your local context. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to engage in this shared vision. What steps can you take over the next year to join other churches in reaching the tremendous goals God has set before us?

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you in ministry. We pray for you and give thanks to God for the difference you are making throughout the Midwest.

To God be the glory!

Tammy Swanson-Draheim
Superintendent

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*Churches working together to transform lives and communities by starting new churches,
strengthening existing churches, and developing missional leaders.*

What is the ECC Midwest Conference?

The Midwest Conference consists of 98 churches and fellowship groups, a growing movement of God's Covenant people that spans Western Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and Wyoming. Here is how we describe the missional focus of our common work: Churches working together to transform lives and communities by starting new churches, strengthening existing churches, and developing missional leaders.

Pastor's Report

Staff

Senior Pastor
Guy McCaslin



**Ministers of
Worship
in Arts**

Allison Rich



and

Phil Wallace



**Director of
Youth Ministries**
Justin Le Vett



**Director of
Children's
Ministries**
Sarah Lynch



**Office
Administrator**
Bob Stolper



Ever since writing my first Annual Report at AWCC in 2001 I have viewed it as a yearly opportunity to reflect and share with the AWCC Family some of the things about our shared life together that stand out to me as blessings, challenges, etc. And, about this time every year I typically have a doubt or two about that decision. I wonder if I should include a record of “pastoral things” that I have done--like sermons preached, weddings and funerals, counseling sessions, ministerial meetings, conferences, etc. I know some pastors who do but, honestly, I just assume you know I do those things (you do right?) and choose to share what I think are “bigger picture items”. So here I go again this year! Let me share with you four words that represent slices of AWCC life that I think are exciting and evidence of God’s blessing and faithfulness!

FAMILY: We use that word often at AWCC, but you should know there is hardly a week goes by in which I am not reminded of how diverse we are as the people of God in this part of the Kingdom called Applewood Community Church--yet we stick together! We are family in Christ and it is lived out! As

your pastor I get to hear stories and have conversations that remind me of the many differences. We are a theological, social, economic and political melting pot--and I love it! Rising above the differences and uniting us is a passion for Jesus and a recognition that sharing life together in a way that exalts him is our highest calling! I am grateful that love for Him is what holds us together and that we

choose to see differences not as a threat, but as an expression of the beauty that comes with being unique individuals united as the Body of Christ. What a blessing! I pray that this slice of AWCC never changes! Pray with me that 2018 will see us continue to be the family in Christ that God calls his church to be! And, if you would, pray too that God might add some people of color and other minorities to our family. Wouldn't it be so much fun to start looking and sounding more like heaven before we get there?

STAFF: This will come as no surprise to you but we have an amazing and talented group of folks serving as our staff at AWCC. Each one is gifted and hard-working and, most

importantly, they have wonderful hearts for God and His people. I am blessed with their friendship and honored to serve with them. As you probably know, each one serves AWCC in a part-time capacity but they give their all in those limited hours. To each one, a special thanks:

Allie and Phil, I am so grateful for your willingness to wait patiently for Sunday themes and to follow the Spirit's leading. There have been several times that you sensed where the Lord wanted us to go and

planned for it before I was clear! Thanks for your work to make worship meaningful and God-honoring!

Sarah, thank you for your endless love for children and our families at AWCC. Your passion for the Lord and His Word, and your great desire to see our children know the truth is an example to us all and blessing from

// Let me share with you four words that represent slices of AWCC life that I think are exciting and evidence of God's blessing and faithfulness!

the Lord. Thank you for being you!

Justin, thanks for giving yourself week in and week out to our youth. They of an age where they will rarely, if ever, tell you how much they appreciate you--but that is not why you pour yourself into them. It is so clear to me that you love Jesus and want them to love him too! You do it for him and because that it true, the teens are blessed more than they know!

Bob, thanks for juggling the needs of a busy family with your responsibilities as Office Administrator. You do an amazing job of being the voice and face of AWCC! Your heart for people and willingness to help, combined with great organizational skills, are quite the blend of gifts. You pull it off well and I am blessed to be a part of it!

LEADERSHIP: 2017 will stand in AWCC history as the year we finished up the long and arduous work of positioning AWCC for a change in governance; from a Council of Deacons to a Leadership Team. Both models of governance are endorsed by our denomination, so we didn't decide to do something too wild and crazy! But I am excited that we are moving toward installation of a Leadership Team in 2018. I grateful for the work of the FOST members: Sam Clark, Tim Hughes, Heather Platt, Lee Richman and Paul Veers. It was a two-year haul and their commitment to the task was incredible! As pastor I was a member of the FOST and, let me tell you, that from the earliest meetings I knew that my contribution would be that of cheerleader! I don't know if I have ever been part of a more capable group of people. It was an honor, week after week, to watch them in action! I thank God for their work, for the support and encouragement of the Council of Deacons and for the prayers of the AWCC Family as we journeyed through this experience. I believe the 2018 governance transition to a Leadership Team positions

AWCC to be a healthy and missional church for many years to come!

CANCER: 2017 was year two for me of living with cancer! And here's what I want you to know: Your presence and prayers in my life have been so important to me in this journey. I have felt so much love and care from the AWCC family--what a blessing in my life! It has been an opportunity for me to be touched by a truth that I believe and have taught for many years--we need one another in the Body of Christ! But, having cancer has shown me that it

is easy to say that without really knowing it until we really need it! Then we really know it! And I do! Strange as it may sound, I think that on some levels my life is richer as a result of cancer. You see, there is something about having a potentially fatal disease that can make one see more clearly what is important. God has made us for relationships--with him and with one another! When something comes along that threatens to change those, you see them more for what they are! Thanks for being in my life, walking with me and helping to see what is ultimately important!

So my AWCC family, there you have it! My annual report for another year. There have been many of them and I am reminded that this life is flying by! I am so grateful to be sharing it with you and blessed to be your pastor. Thanks be to God for his faithfulness to us in 2017 and may 2018 be another year of living together for his glory!

*Amazed by grace,
Pastor Guy*

*// God has made us
for relationships--
with him and with
one another!*

Uth Ministries Report

The year of 2017 was a year of growth for the Uth Ministry at Applewood Community Church. Growth in the students faith, spiritual growth, great discussions, winter retreats, relational ministry, finding the groups identity, and peer encouragement, were seen by all that attended the Uth ministry at AWCC. This last year God showed up in big ways, teaching the students who he is through peer to peer interaction and by some of our older students leading the younger students organically. We were able to see God open doors in the ministry that were new to the groups Identity.



We have some amazing volunteers in the Uth Group at AWCC. They speak truth, and invest in our teens. Rachel LeVett and Josiah Bechler have connected with students over the years to show Christ to the teens in our group. We have had a few student leaders starting to emerge in the group. We love seeing how students grow up and start to lead the younger students.

This is something that sets our group parts do t how our group is set up. Our upper class-man learn who their identity in Christ Jesus and through that start to lead the younger students. Sometimes with a prompt, other times organically, just by the spirt leading them to be a leader.

This is one of our favorite things to see in the Uth Group at AWCC. You can move fast in ministry alone, but far and deep when you do ministry together. It has been awesome to see the connections made through our team. The more we as a church invest and know all the students, in their teenage years, the more we will see them become leaders of the church in the near future.

This year like many others before it, we started the year off by unplugging, traveling, and worshipping in community with our other Frontrange Evangelical Covenant Churches at Faceplant and Powderburn winter retreats. This retreat was an anchor point for the students in their faith Journey. Faceplant, is for all the Mid-High students. We had a good group of students go to FP in 2017, we were able to grow together as a group, by hearing the message, discussing it in small group, and having

fun together as an AWCC Uth group. We took 2 leaders as work crew,. They gave up their weekend to serve and volunteer by washing dishes and serving food to the whole camp. You have not lived until you see a room full of 300, 6th-8th graders wholeheartedly worshipping. Powderburn was different in 2017, those high school students were busy, and none were able to make it to camp. Justin did attend PB17 to teach a seminar on how to share your faith in the professional world.

Over the past year I have seen the Uth grow in their faith in exciting ways. By seeing kids invite friends, having new visitors stick around and keep coming, going to sporting events, one on one time, and fun events, we were able to see our student mature in their God given identities.

The students were able to deepen their faith on Wednesday nights. We had some great discussions and time for the students to get to know each

other by playing games together. We had many great series through out the year. Started the year off with a series called: Tell me a Story... by hearing the testimonies of how God is working to bring many in our church family to be saved. During the Easter season we had a series called Death and Resurrection, where we took a look at each of the Gospel accounts of

the Easter story of Christ. Started the 2017-2018 ministry year off with a study of the book of John, looking at the human side of Jesus and the first hand witness account of John. During the advent season we went through a mini series about waiting on God, in anticipation for what his plans are.

We started the Catalyst group on Sunday mornings for the Jr. High students to have more age structured teaching. Which opened the door to doing a Confirmation Class for grades 7-12.

God has done some amazing things during the past year! We are excited to see where he take this group next in 2018!

*Blessings,
Justin LeVett, Uth Pastor*

// We were able to see God open doors in the ministry that were new to the groups Identity.



ESTABLISH Uth

Children's Ministries Report

I am so grateful for the children who are a part of Applewood Community Church, for the parents who raise them, and for the church family that shares the love of God with them. This year has been a whirlwind of activities and learning about the Lord. It is a wonder to get to see our children grow in faith and their relationship with our Savior. I am pleased to share some of the highlights of 2017 with you here.

Children's Ministry Volunteers – THANK YOU!

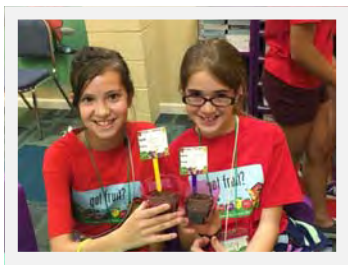
We are blessed with a group of people who have hearts for sharing the love of God with the kids of AWCC. Each week we have 4 classrooms running with 2 volunteers in each. Thanks so much to each of these people who have helped in 2017 in the Children's Ministries classes:

- *Nursery/Toddler teachers:* Krista Frank, Steve & Kathy Seybold, Carolyn Vaughan, Mary Michael, April Sustad, Bob & Kathy Stolper, Karen Elmont, Monica Granitto, Cheryl Johnson and Joana Stiegelmeier
- *Preschool teachers:* Karen Chambers, Rosie Hughes, Carrie Wallace, Kelly Capansky, Vonnie Nelson, Ellen Baldacci, Kathleen Martin, Stephanie Zavislan
- *Kindergarten-3rd Grade teachers:* Rick Baldacci, Chad Lynch, Janine Flannigan, Jennifer Melby, Rosemary Clark, Bridget Noce, Sharon Robins
- *4th-6th Grade teachers:* Dee Harwood, Karen Snuffer, Charissa McCaslin, Donna Prokaski, Jason & Laura Brant, Cindy Hill, Colleen Mead, Carson Stolper
- *Youth who have served in the nursery and preschool:* Ashlynn Noce, Gina, Lena & Tina Stolper, Grace Wallace

We have continued to use Group's Hands-On curriculum in the preschool, where we learn in the way Jesus taught, with real-life examples. In our elementary classes we have started using the Buzz curriculum, also from Group, which allows our teachers to pick activities that fit their style best, and gives the kids a broad range of ways to learn about our Bible lessons. Our 4th-6th graders have done a great job of participating in discussion and asking the tough questions as they grow deeper in the Word.

Vacation Bible School

In June 2017 Applewood Community Church was transformed into BigHeart Farms where an average of 45 kids (up from 32 last year) per day came during the week to learn about the fruits of the Spirit in fun, loud, messy, tasty ways. We played games, such as



searching through wood chips for coins on the day we learned about patience. We wrote letters to children in Ecuador on the day we learned about kindness and goodness. We learned Bible verses and saw how people in the Bible displayed the fruits of the Spirit. And we sang and laughed through puppet shows. We



raised money to support Extreme Response in Ecuador. What a joy that we can bless kids in our church, in our community, and around the world.

We had 23 volunteers who helped out during the week, from leading groups of kids to cooking, signing children in and out, running crafts and games, and telling Bible stories. This included 6 youth helpers that did a fantastic job of leading! THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered, as well as those who supported VBS with donations and time beforehand.



In the summer of 2018 we will take off into God's Galaxy as we learn about our Creator and who He has made us to be. I am so excited for our 3rd annual VBS!

Arise

Our 4th-6th graders meet periodically during the year for a special time called Arise, where we delve deeper into the Word and do service projects to learn about putting faith into action.



This year we had several memorable events:

- In February we did a Valentine's Day craft with assisted living residents at Atria Park. The seniors and kids made Valentine hanging heart decorations together.

- We served at the JeffCo Action Center grocery area for 3 hours one morning in April. Our kids got a look at what the Action Center provides for people as they sorted through groceries and produce, deciding what was edible and what needed to be thrown out. The kids learned that donations have to go through a process to get to the needy and that sometimes donated items are not useful or useable.

- We made “Blessing Bags” for the homeless again this year. After talking about poverty, homelessness, and what it means to love like Christ – unconditionally - our kids formed assembly lines and filled bags with goodies – such as socks, gloves, hand warmers, chapstick, protein bars, vitamins, etc. - for those in need.



- In November we had a great time working on letters to children in Ecuador. Several Spanish-speakers from AWCC came to help us write back to the children in the Quito dump daycare program run by Extreme Response (we wrote letters during VBS, and the Ecuadorian children responded!). What a blessing to correspond with brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Other Highlights from Children’s Ministries 2017

- **Winter Trailblazer** camp was the first weekend in March. I took a couple of our older girls up, and we ended up having two more girls in our room that needed a counselor. Our girls quickly made friends with them, and I was proud of how they showed love and encouragement for others. We had a lot of fun worshipping, playing in the snow, doing crafts, competing in a sled race, and more.



- In May we had an all-church **ice cream party** to celebrate our kids’ hard work on memorizing their Bible verses. In August, we started putting the weekly verses in the bulletin so that the adults could participate as well. Having the kids say their verses to adults provides some intergenerational connection and shows the children that putting God’s Word in their hearts is important.

- Our volunteers met together for a **volunteer training** in August. It was a great time of fellowship, sharing stories and ideas for the 2017-2018 school year. Our theme for this school year centered around this verse, “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14). Not only do we want to do everything in love, but we want to teach our children how to do the same.

- Due to some unforeseen circumstances and cold weather, this year we had our **baptisms** at AWCC in a baptismal. Ellie Wallace and Abby Lynch publicly declared their intent and desire to follow Jesus with their lives. Although it was different than what we usually do, it fit these two sweet girls well. Thanks to the AWCC family for supporting them in this and helping to raise them in the Lord.

- In October we had several **volunteers from Faith Christian High School** come for a work day. I was happy to have a group downstairs to help thoroughly clean classrooms, from vacuuming and scrubbing tables and chairs to sanitizing toys.

- For **the kids’ Christmas program** this year, we took on the theme of joy, not a hard one to do with children who are thrilled

by the story of Jesus coming to earth because He loves us dearly. We sang *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, How Great Our Joy, and Unspeakable Joy*. The children shared Scripture about the joy we have in the Lord.



Thoughts on 2018

As I look ahead at the year to come, I can’t help but be excited to see what God has planned for our children. I am grateful for the leading of the Holy Spirit in deciding what to do and what direction to take. He is faithful, and He loves His children – all of them – so much. I am waiting in anticipation to see Him working in the lives of our children and our church family.

*Serving His Kids,
Sarah Lynch
Director of Children's Ministries*

Office Administrator Report

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve God and the AWCC family as Office Administrator. The staff and our volunteers work very hard and are great role models for me.

I'm thankful for the time, effort, and talents that volunteers donate to make our church possible. What a great model of God's plan of many different parts of the body working together! Here is a list of essential tasks performed by volunteers that maybe you do or don't already know about:

- The Council of Deacons leading, directing, praying, and planning church business throughout the year and meeting at least monthly.
- The Fruitful Organizational Structures Team (FOST) and their many, many hours of meetings, praying, researching, and writing policies for our new governance model.
- The Worship Team of musicians, and sound and slide technicians, practicing at home during the week, then meeting for rehearsal every Thursday night, and getting to church before everyone else Sunday mornings.
- Teachers and care givers for babies through high schoolers, each Sunday, Wednesday, and during special events such as VBS week, Confirmation, etc.
- Worship sheet music filing each Sunday after the service.
- Editing the sermon audio files and making them available on our website & iTunes.
- Planning menus, shopping, cooking, cleaning for Wednesday night Alafia and other events such as the Christmas tree lighting, Annual Meeting, etc.
- Decorating for Advent, Lent, Easter, VBS, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc
- Paying bills, paying taxes, running payroll, tax reporting, budgeting.
- Greeting visitors and handing out bulletins Sunday mornings.
- Counting, recording, and reporting attendance figures.
- Counting the money each Sunday after the service and making bank deposits.
- Maintaining our electronic and mechanical equipment, building, and church grounds.
- Building, modifying, and maintaining our website.
- Planning and attending mission trips.
- Coordinating and running the community garden.
- Coordinating and leading Life Groups.
- Coordinating and leading men's and women's retreats, breakfasts, IF:Events, etc.
- Severe Weather Shelter coordinating, leading, cooking, cleaning, sanctuary chair staging, laundry washing, hosting (evenings and overnight).
- Preparing coffee and doing dishes every Sunday morning.
- Shopping for consumable items and keeping the bathrooms stocked.
- Everything else that I didn't think of or know about.

I'm thankful for the positive impact that our church has on groups that use our building without fees (some users choose to donate money or items). In 2017, our building was used for close to 100 non-AWCC events such as:

Home Schooling • Severe Weather Shelter • Music lessons
Wedding • Computer User Groups • Various Meetings

I'm thankful for Rosie Hughes taking the time to meet with me multiple times last year to coach me in ways to manage benevolence requests. Her revisions to our written policy will help both AWCC and the people requesting our assistance.

If you made it reading this far, I'm thankful for your willpower, and hope you see that it takes many people other than staff to do God's work here and keep this place running. Thank you volunteers!

*Counting my blessings,
Bob Stolper
Office Administrator*

AWCC Core Values

With our focus on Christ we are:

Grounded in Prayer

God answers prayer, and we are devoted to listening and responding to His voice.

Colossians 4:2, Psalm 34:4

Striving for Excellence

God is excellent in all His ways, and His greatness inspires acts of worship and service.

Psalm 148:13, Psalm 8:1 (KJV), Colossians 3:17

Seeking Relevance

God's Word is living and active and produces an authentic Christian lifestyle.

Hebrews 4:12, 1 Chronicles 12:32

Reflecting His Creativity

God is our Creator who has entrusted us with unique spiritual gifts and talents to edify the Body.

Genesis 1:27, 1 Corinthians 12

Balanced in Grace and Truth

Jesus Christ is full of grace and truth, and we benefit from these attributes and extend them to others.

John 1:4, 8:1-11; Ephesians 4:15

Overflowing with Joy

God's presence brings fullness of joy, which inspires us to live passionately for Him in all of life's circumstances.

Acts 2:28, James 1:2

Committed to Outreach

God is light, and we are to reflect His light in the midst of darkness.

John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16, Acts 26:18

Deacon of Grounds and Facilities Report

2017 was my second year as G&F deacon. I didn't get everything accomplished that I had planned. Between going back to work part-time, trying to enjoy retirement, and discovering that I'm basically lazy, progress suffered a bit. Maybe I'll do better in 2018.

The normal annual events occurred as planned. The Faith Christian Academy kids did a great job on their outreach day. Worth honorable mention, Sarah Lynch and the FCA crew replaced stained carpet squares in the downstairs classrooms with new ones that I pulled out from under the AV platform. We had a less-than-optimal turnout for the spring clean up day so not as much was accomplished this year.

Other accomplishments:

- Purchase and installation of hand towel dispensers in the bathrooms.
- Lift repairs by Andy Platt and Steve Frank got the unit back in operation after some weeks of downtime. A visit from a Morning Star tech to address the loud "bang" that occurs intermittently while the lift is ascending or descending was marginally successful. It still happens occasionally.
- I made some drywall repairs to the lift shaft, but still need to paint.
- I continued throughout the summer months to hand spray the weeds in the rocks on our property in between the five applications per year that we are paying for.
- The lift MCP (maintenance control program) is in place, and we have received and paid for the annual inspection for 2017 and the 5-year witnessed weight test (next one rolls around in 2022).
- The Christmas star, as of this writing, hasn't fallen out of the tree, so it's redesign and professional placement must have been a success. It and the lights will be removed, hopefully, sometime in February before the big winds.
- We had a plumbing issue in the kitchen in March that Bob Stolper was able to repair the next day by replacing a bolt in the garbage disposal collar.
- Early in the year we had to call in a plumber to jet our sewer lines because they backed up on us. I think we have since budgeted to have that done every two years to avoid recurrence of damage to the supplies being stored, unfortunately, in the bathroom shower stalls. I sure wish we could change that but can't come up with any plausible scenarios.
- Sustained some roof damage during the May hailstorm. I believe the repairs will be made in January, weather permitting.
- Andy repaired our sidewalk heater in June, allowing me to get all the paint cans out of the furnace room.
- Our August water bill was horrendous. We had a leak or someone left the water running outside. No damage, other than to cash reserves.
- Mark Bechler got the lights that illuminate the cross on the front of the tower.

Issues not yet addressed:

- Repair of the eaves on the N side of the building.
- Repair of the N shed door.
- Paint touch-up of the two wooden sheds.
- Shimming of the hand railing for the front entrance stairs.
- Replacement of some of the split rail fence posts.
- Lights at either side of the main entryway have not yet been fixed.

I am grateful to the many congregants who assisted with the care and maintenance of the building and grounds. I'm sure there are people who anonymously donated funds or assumed responsibility for projects that got done without my knowing a thing about them.

Greg Green
Deacon of Grounds and Facilities

Our Mission Statement

Applewood Community Church exists to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

A fully devoted follower seeks to:

Celebrate God through worship.

Commit to serving others through ministry.

Cultivate spiritual growth through discipleship.

Care for one another through fellowship.

Communicate the good news through evangelism, by means of Christian formation.

Outreach Report

We've had a wonderful year with several great connections and opportunities.

AWCC helps support 5 Missionary families:



Mark and Donna MacGowan have been with YWAM for 25+ years, and until this past year, based in Colorado and part of our AWCC Family. In June they moved to northern Australia to a YWAM base that serves as a base for ministry to Papua New Guinea.



Chris and Jenny Hoskins with their children Breck and Elsa are ministering in Ecuador providing leadership development, Christian formation and pastoral care. They anticipate helping to develop a support network for clergy and lay leaders along with their families.



Carl and Karen Groot are serving in Bangkok Thailand through ministries of community development, economic development, evangelism and outreach. When we have purse sales at AWCC, they are the beautiful purses made by the Thai ladies in the small sewing business they established! Karen serves with the Abundant Life Center (ALC), a community-based ministry to rural northeastern Thai (Issaan) who have migrated to Bangkok in search of work. Carl serves at the International Community School Bangkok (ICS) with projects that utilize his abilities in the realm of his engineering /technical background, people skills, cross cultural experience, language ability and problem solving.



Peter and Ruthie Dutton have worked in rural refugee income generation projects, rural agriculture, and community development in Thailand and Laos since 1982. They are now living in Roi Et, Thailand working with Thailand Covenant Churches in leadership training and vocational development.



Roy and Aleta Danforth have been serving in the Central African Republic since 1998. Their primary focus has been ministries of agriculture and ministries of compassion. "We want to say thank you to each one for your prayers and financial support. We are grateful for your sacrificial giving to our personal and project support. We are blessed by being able to be in Africa, sharing God's love in tangible ways, helping the unreached to hear the good news even with the ongoing conflict in C.A.R.. We thank you and give thanks to God for you."

If you would like more information about our missionaries or would like to receive their newsletters to pray for and/or communicate and encourage them, please contact Ellen Baldacci – RNL1125@msn.com

AWCC Local Outreach includes ministry to foster children, people needing shelter in cold weather, our gardening neighbors and summer Vacation Bible School.

Severe Weather Shelter

We continue to partner with the Severe Weather Shelter Network to provide emergency overnight shelter on life threatening winter nights for individuals living on the streets. We partner (and rotate with) several churches in our area, as well as those in the larger network, and as such, have been able to see the Kingdom at work. As partnerships, relationships, and friendships are built between people, it allows churches to experience Church as not communities in silos, but as the greater vision that Christ had intended. If you would like to hear stories about our guests' experience with the Shelter, check out our YouTube channel "Severe Weather Shelter Network."

Royal Family Kids Camp

AWCC continues to support Royal Family Kids Camp with not only funds, but many volunteers that commit to prayer, training, and a week of camp for children that are in the Colorado foster care system. AWCC sent a large contingent of volunteers in a variety of roles, making a difference in the lives of local foster kids. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to this ministry. Also, for those of you that send out prayers and encouragements throughout the week and year, know that your contributions are very much appreciated.

To get more information or volunteer for Royal Family Kids Camp or the Severe Weather Shelter, contact Tracy Thayer – tnthayer@hotmail.com

AWCC Community Garden offers several small garden plots for community and church family use. A great opportunity for interaction with our neighbors. For more detail on what's been happening this year or if you would like to participate, contact Cappi Baumgart. cappibaumgart@comcast.net

Vacation Bible School is a one week adventure at AWCC that serves not only our own kids but brings in many from the surrounding community. To volunteer and or participate, contact Sarah Lynch our Children's Director. See Children's Ministry Report for more information.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19

*The Outreach Team,
(Rick & Ellen Baldacci, Donna Prokaski,
Renee Savio)*

Worship in Arts Report

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His
pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise;
give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the LORD is good and His love endures
forever;
His faithfulness continues through all
generations.*

Psalm 100

We have been given the incredible privilege and responsibility of leading the people of God before Him in worship. It is a duty that we do not take lightly. We covet your prayers as we continue to seek God's direction as we prepare and lead worship each week.

Throughout the year 2017, the tireless worship team members played 53 Sunday services, 4 additional services (Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve), totaling 348 songs played. Of those songs, they played 152 different songs, including 19 new songs introduced in 2017. Wow!! Thank you, team members!

A few highlights from 2017:

Andy Platt, Sam Clark and Steve Frank were instrumental in installing the new projection computer. The previous computer had been crashing and even quit in the middle of the kids' Christmas performance in 2016, so it has been a relief to have a more reliable computer in place. We also have a computer designated to the sound board, allowing for greater precision in adjusting the sound of the instruments and voices. Also, a huge thanks to Andy for the beautiful new desk in

the sound booth, which provides room for both computers and enables the slides operators to use two monitors simultaneously.

We added Mark Albrecht to the worship team on bass and vocals. We have had some challenges in filling team positions as we are down to one main acoustic player (thanks, Matt!) and Carson's schedule is in flux, leaving us with only one drum player at times (thanks, Gary!) God is faithful, and He continues to provide us with talented and dependable musicians. We are grateful to Him for providing laborers for the harvest, and to His people for responding to His call to serve in this capacity.

P

A big thank you to all of our worship team volunteers and choir members: Alfredo Pinto; Mark Albrecht; Cappi Baumgart; Eileen, Emma, Josiah, Mary and Mark Bechler; Tim Bowman; Karen Chambers; Sam Clark; Gary Finn; Steve Frank; Ryon Fuqua; Matt and Toby Granitto; Dixie and Greg Green; Jim Green; Dee Harwood; Cheryl and Krista Johnson; Vic Keiter; Justin and Rachel LeVett; Chad Lynch; Rick Martin; Tom McMillen; Jeremy Noce; Dawn Oldfather; Andy Platt; Jill and Lee Richman; Kathy Seybold; Karen Snuffer; Carson and Patrick Stolper; Karen and Paul Veers; Nora and Grace Wallace; Nat and Silence Weeks. We could not do this ministry without you!!

***Andy Platt, Deacon of Worship in Arts
Allie Rich and Phil Wallace, Ministers
of Worship in Arts***

*// We covet your
prayers as we
continue to seek
God's direction as
we prepare and
lead worship
each week.*

Financial Secretary Report

This has been a year of blessing as God has continued to provide for AWCC. I praise God for each of you who have been faithful in fulfilling your commitments to this ministry. AWCC adopted a General Fund budget for 2017 of \$356,244. We ended our year with total giving to the General Fund of \$373,979 which is \$17,735 over budget!

Directed giving in 2017 included the following:

Benevolence Fund	\$ 1,900
Royal Family	\$ 2,000
Landscaping/Spring clean-up	\$ 1,000
VBS Supplies	\$ 520

Thanks to your generosity, AWCC raised \$5,731 for Covenant World Relief in 2017.

AWCC collected \$46,341 for out parking lot renovation campaign which ran from May 2016 through December 2017.

Our average Sunday morning attendance for both 2017 and 2016 was 126. The numbers for attendance include children, youth and adults who attend our Sunday morning worship service.

AWCC continues to use Servant Keeper software to maintain the accuracy and efficiency of our reporting. We continue to have security problems with transmitting our contribution statements via email. To save postage we provided the 2017 year-end statements on Sunday, January 21st and 28th, in the church lobby for those who were at church, and mailed the rest by January 31st.

God has been so faithful to provide for this ministry through your consistent and generous support. What a blessing it is to see God work through his people.

While Jesus was in the Temple, He watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. "I tell you the truth," said Jesus, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has." Luke 21:1-4

Blessings!
Karen Snuffer
Financial Secretary

Treasurer's Report

As shown in the Financial Secretaries Report, we closed the year with \$373,979 in giving to the General Fund which was above our budget target of \$356,244. Thanks to the frugality of staff and ministry teams, the total spending from the General Fund in 2017 was \$348,902 ending the year with approximately \$25,000 additional. Truly amazing when you consider how far behind we were in March. **Thank you so much AWCC family for your generosity investing in the ministries of AWCC. Praise God for His provision!**

\$5,000 has been allocated for staff bonuses. \$1000 set aside for future building maintenance needs (currently \$500 is set aside each year from the budget – \$1300 balance in that account as of 12/2017) and the remainder retained to improve our cash reserve (previously 2 months, to move us closer to the recommended minimum of 3 months)

On-line giving is going well, receiving about 40% of contributions. It's a system available through "CovenantGiving" that is accessible on the AWCC website. If you haven't checked it out, please do. The most cost effective option is to make donations using electronic check directly from your checking account. Setting up regular recurring giving is also very helpful.

Our Parking Lot campaign continues (ending the year with \$58,928 cash on hand) and though we are not ready to begin the project, hopefully we will launch a 2018/19 campaign and be ready soon

I am thankful that as Treasurer, I do not work alone and am very grateful for the skills and efforts of the entire financial team: Karen Snuffer (financial secretary), Dee Harwood (accountant), Vickey Bennett and Janine Flannigan.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Ellen Baldacci
Treasurer

Out of concern for privacy the detailed financial reports for 2017 and the previously approved Budget for 2018 have not been included in this report that is posted to our website. Copies of the 2017 Financial Report will be emailed to the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting, will be available in print at the Annual Meeting or you may contact the church office for a copy.

2017 AWCC Annual Meeting Minutes

2017 Applewood Community Church Annual Meeting February 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chad Lynch at 11:20 A.M. A Quorum was established.

MISSION STATEMENT

The AWCC Mission Statement was reviewed briefly:

AWCC exists to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

A fully devoted follower exists to:

- Celebrate God through worship
- Commit to serving others through ministry
- Cultivate spiritual growth through discipleship
- Care for one another through fellowship
- Communicate the good news through evangelism, by means of Christian formation.

2016 EVENTS

The year was full of established events as well as new opportunities for AWCC. The following were mentioned as specific highlights:

Vacation Bible School – This was a very successful event thanks to the efforts of volunteers and Sarah Lynch.

Severe Weather Shelter – The shelter program was open 20 days in 2016, serving up to 30 homeless people per night. 20-30 people from AWCC volunteered their time and resources to this effort.

Community Bible Experience – The feedback regarding this program was positive from both adult and youth participants.

IF Gathering – This ministry has taken off at AWCC and is greatly appreciated by those who have attended.

PARKING LOT UPDATE

The 2016 campaign to raise funds for replacement of the parking lot was successful in raising additional money and pledges for this project. However, as of January 31, 2017, there are not enough pledges or cash contributions to the fund to begin the replacement. An additional fund raising campaign may take place in 2018 for this purpose.

-Continued Next Page-

2017 AWCC Annual Meeting Minutes

-Continued From Previous Page-

FOST PROPOSAL

Heather Platt presented information on the proposed change from the current church government model to that of a Leadership Team. The Team model would allow greater flexibility to those in leadership, allow for a separation between the officers and the Team (except for the Chairperson), would minimize the “multiple hats” worn by leaders and allow for more spiritual vision casting and prayer. A transition timeline was reviewed. Proposed changes to AWCC constitution and bylaws have been officially presented to the congregation as of this business meeting, fulfilling the requirement of a one-year notice of change to the current constitution. FOST will also re-write the AWCC Mission Statement in the second half of 2017.

A motion was made to commission the Council to form a nominating committee to identify people to serve on the Leadership Team. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed.

A motion was made to vote on the revised constitution and bylaws at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

A nominating committee will present the congregation with prospective Leadership Team members by April/May 2017.

ANNUAL REPORT AND 2017 BUDGET

2016 annual reports from committees have been submitted and are available on the AWCC website. The 2017 budget was approved in November, 2016.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

With gratefulness to God for His faithfulness, we look forward to serving Him with our time and resources in 2017. The programs highlighted in the 2016 EVENTS listed above will be repeated in 2017 as God provides volunteers and continued commitment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Rosie Hughes
Secretary

Some 2017 Church Milestones and Events

Baptisms

- Abby Lynch
- Ellie Wallace

Deaths

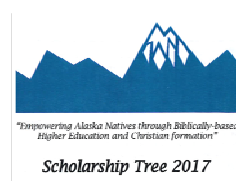
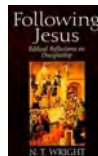
- Patrick Flannigan

Dedications

- Matthias Granitto
- Francesca Mazone
- Caleb Rich
- Xander Rich

Other Events

- Community Bible Reading Experience
- Mission Trips
- Church Picnic
- Fruitful Organizational Structures Team (FOST)
- IF:Tables
- Guy Turned 60
- Discussion Groups
- Hangouts
- Parking Lot Campaign
- Royal Family Kids Camp
- Severe Weather Shelter
- Vacation Bible School
- Life Groups
- Ice Cream Party
- Alafia
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Prayer Gathering
- Uth Group
- Pancake Breakfast
- Men's Retreat
- Men's & Women's Breakfasts
- Newcomer's Cookout
- Welcome Team
- The Together Church
- Community Garden Work
- Alaska College Scholarship Tree
- Covenant World Relief
- Operation Christmas Child
- Powderburn & Faceplant
- Council Meetings
- Budget Meetings



Church Membership as of December 31, 2017

As a member of Applewood Community Church I commit to:

- Celebrate God’s leading in my life to commit myself to furthering His kingdom through the life and family of Applewood Community Church, its mission and values
- Desire ongoing growth in an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- Purpose to study the Bible with a devotion to know God better and to aligning my will and ways to His
- Purpose to invest my heart, my time, my gifts and abilities, my tithes and my friendship into the family and purposes of AWCC
- Purpose to worship with my AWCC family and not forsake meeting together
- Value the shepherding influence that the pastor(s) and the community of believers will have on my spiritual growth
- Purpose to speaking openly with kindness and truth in order to build healthy relationships, resolve conflicts and encourage God’s best with each other.

Members (64)

Ellen Baldacci	Ellen Green	Allison Rich
Rick Baldacci	Jim Green	Jeff Rich
Cappi Baumgart	Dee Harwood	Jill Richman
Steve Baumgart	Rosie Hughes	Lee Richman
Eileen Bechler	Tim Hughes	Kathy Seybold
Mark Bechler	Cheryl Johnson	Steve Seybold
Vickey Bennett	Doug Johnson	Vera Shader
Ethel Bowman	Justin LeVett	Karen Snuffer
Jason Brant	Rachel LeVett	Bob Stolper
Laura Brant	Chad Lynch	Kathy Stolper
Karen Chambers	Sarah Lynch	Doug Swartz
Jane Dratz	Charissa McCaslin	Carrie Wallace
Steve Dratz	Guy McCaslin	Phil Wallace
Krista Frank	Mary Michael	Nat Weeks
Steve Frank	Dale Miller	Silence Weeks
Gary Finn	Sue Miller	Brian Wilson
Lori Finn	Dale Morris	Lynne Wilson
Kate Finn	Craig Nelson	Roger Wilson
Jeanie Gordon	Vonnie Nelson	
Mike Gordon	Andrew Platt	
Matthew Granitto	Heather Platt	
Monica Granitto	Donna Prokaski	
Dixie Green		
Greg Green		

AWCC Charter Members

In gratitude and humility to God for His grace given to us in Jesus Christ, we dedicate ourselves to the establishing of this congregation which will be known as Applewood Community Church, an Evangelical Covenant Church, for the purpose of leading people in becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. With our focus on Jesus Christ, we seek to celebrate God through worship, communicate the Good News, care for one another in community and cultivate personal growth in body, mind and spirit.

We will do this with a sense of excellence, creativity, relevance, joy, grace and truth, prayer and outreach.

Established this day, January twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred ninety-five.

Cal Anderson	Lynn Gerred	Mark Middlebrooks	Corine Sweeney
Maija Anderson	Suzanne Gerred	Edward Miller	Tom Sweeney
Joel Anema	Chris Gerred	Frieda Miller	Joyce Tierney
Mark Anema	Taime Gerred-Solars	Harold Newman	Cecelia Traum
Lori Austin	Ellen Green	Loretta Newman	Ray Traum
Tom Austin	Jim Green	Annette Noren	Anne Marie Watne
Ethel Bowman	Janis Harr	Fred Noren	Todd Watne
Gilbert Bowman	Matt Harr	Becci Noren	Greg Watne
Lorraine Bowman	John Hartman	Hope Olson	Laura Watne
Tim Bowman	Rene Hartman	Steve Olson	Trent Watne
Brad Brauer	Lorna Jordan	Deana Perlmutter	Lois Watne
Karen Brauer	Diane Kyncl	Ed Perlmutter	Sam Watne
Bill Brunner	Russ Kyncl	Heather Reier	John Wenrich
Maggie Brunner	Marla Leisy	Travis Reier	Julie Wenrich
John Chipman	Ron Leisy	Jill Richman	Valerie Weyand
Kathy Chipman	Celeste Lembeck	Lee Richman	Bob White
David Christman	Mikki LeVett	Lauren Richman	Renee White
Tonya Christman	Will LeVett	Rebeca Rowley	Maude Wilder
Doug Daggett	Carol Lissy	Steve Rowley	Jim Willy
Jan Daggett	David Lissy	Arlen Siert	Lynne Wilson
Hank DeJonge	Cathy Loomis	Diane Siert	Roger Wilson
Ellen DeJonge	Roger Loomis	Ardy Stoesz	
Jane Dratz	Jeff Marcus	Orv Stoesz	
Steve Dratz	Jon McVey	RJ Strawn	
Kim Dunafon	Julie McVey	Rob Strawn	
Wade Dunafon	Debbie Middlebrooks	Shirley Strawn	

AWCC Children's Charter

We belong here. This is our church home and a place where we learn to follow Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." We are the children and youth of this church and someday we will be the leaders. Today we sign our names as a pledge to help our church let others know about Jesus' love.

Established this day, January twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred ninety-five.

Lauren Richman

Andrea Dratz

Jeremy Kyncl

Julia Richman

Chris Dratz

Matthew Kyncl

Tara Olson

Ellie Dratz

Brianna Kyncl

Janell Anema

Miranda Marcus

Jonathan Wenrich

Alexis Perlmutter

Abigail Perlmutter

Ben Austin

Josh Dunafon

Justin LeVett

Zoe Anne Perlmutter

Joel Lissy

Jake Dunafon

Mikaela LeVett

Ellen Strawn

James Lissy

Josh Traum

Jeremy Leisy

Micah Strawn

Kyle Traum

Abigail Leisy

