

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES—Brittany Kalmink

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** We had a great turn out for VBS. There were some 150 volunteers and 250 children involved this year. Over 20 kids accepted Christ into their lives or recommitted themselves to Christ. This year, VBS raised \$4,087.64 for Living Water World Mission and its project to put a water filter system in a village in Guatemala. This is the largest amount that the kids at VBS have brought in the past 10 years. What a blessing!
- **ADOPT-A-SCHOOL:** We ended last year's Bible Club with a regular attendance of 50 students. This is the most students we have ever had for Bible Club. We had a wonderful response from the school staff inviting us back for this new school year. With the start of our new school year, most of our volunteers have returned and 20 students signed up for Bible Club. The following week, we had 55 kids come out! Call me about helping us at Bible Club. To welcome the Golden Oak students back to school, we did something new this year; 12 of us passed out mini water bottles praying for a good first day of school. We also brought the staff a treat to express our appreciation of them and let them know we are excited for the new school year.
- **AWANA:** In May we ended the AWANA year with an "End of The Year BBQ and Award Night". It was well attended, and 12 students received the Timothy Award. This is the highest award in AWANA. This means a student has completed four books of scripture memorization, which is amazing. Last week we kicked off our first week of AWANA for the new year and many families were excited to be back. We anticipate more kids registering in the weeks to come. I am excited and look forward to the kids being around on Wednesday nights. What a blessing it is for children to have the opportunity to read scripture and memorize God's holy and precious words. I am also blessed with the commitment of the volunteers who are taking the time to work with these children.

EXECUTIVE PASTOR—Tim Allen

- **R Groups:** I'm very excited about what's happening in our R Groups. We have two new groups this year and begin with 324 participants. We also have 13 groups with 107 participants in the High School small group ministry. Also new this year, we have introduced a discipleship ministry to our R Group ministry. It's exciting to see people enter into even more intimate discipleship relationships.
- **Membership:** We have 15 family members in the final stages of our membership process and we will be welcome them into our church family at our next Celebration Sunday on October 7.
- **Online Giving:** As a response to our technology driven culture we have added online giving in response to requests from our church family. It is now live on our website and we are grateful for this avenue for people to share and give to the Lord's work.
- **Tim Ports:** Thank you Lord for our new Worship Arts Pastor and bringing Tim to Grace Community. We are thankful for this answer to our prayers. I'm especially excited by how he is transitioning to our pastoral staff and church family. Do continue to pray for Tim.
- **Grace Community:** I am thrilled to be part of Grace Community. Pastor Jon, in 1 Corinthians 7 of his series on the Epistle, referred to the saying, "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." His point was that what looks greener may turn out to be artificial grass and the great work of God in our lives is on this side of the fence, here, not there, but right where we are now. This is true of our church. God is at work here and I can't imagine any church family I'd rather be a part of than Grace Community. I am thankful we have a Pastor who faithfully teaches God's Word. I'm thankful for our Boards of godly, Bible-believing leaders who desire to seek God's will in all circumstances. I'm thankful to be part of a pastoral staff that loves the Lord and one another, that daily strives to be Christlike and faithfully serve Him and serve us without drama or scandal. I'm thankful for the loving family of God here at Grace Community where we belong. It's easy to look over the fence and imagine the grass is greener and wonder if maybe I'm missing out. Meanwhile, Grace Community keeps loving the Lord and loving others, to do what the church is called to do. For that, I praise the Lord.

¹GBAG = God's Blessings At Grace

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES—Michael Lopes

- **Dynamic Marriage:** At present, 6 couples have decided to make their marriages extraordinary. They've committed to 9 week course designed to give them the ability to better understand and better love each other. Many marriages have been blessed by the knowledge and skills gained through this class.
- **IronWorks:** More than 30 men meet weekly to encourage one another in Christ over coffee and cinnamon rolls in the Grace Café on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 a.m. We are finishing the study of Jesus' parables and will begin a study on the book of James in October.
- **3-on-3 Basketball:** Our second annual basketball tournament of 30 men was held on Saturday March 17. We had several non-followers of Christ playing with us. During our half-time break, one of our pastors gave his testimony and encouraged the men to trust the Lord even life's greatest difficulties for God is faithful.
- **Downtown Car Show:** Several from Grace Community brought their classic cars and dragster to this year's show. Their purpose was Reach Out with the love Christ to all in attendance. Some of the men set-up our AWANA racetrack and provided cars so kids could have fun racing them on the track, while others talked and provided information about Grace to those wanting to know more about our fellowship.
- **Men's Tuesday Night Study:** In June and July a group of men worked through the books "Point Man" and "Finishing Strong" by Steve Farrar. The aim was to inspire men to model Christ to their families all the days of their lives. The men were challenged, by the books and by one another, to grow as Christlike leaders.
- **Summer Softball:** Our men formed two softball teams to compete in the city's summer league. The men not only competed together, they also built relations in their effort to Inspire Christlikeness by Reaching Out to non-followers of Christ.
- **Trap Shoot:** This year's trap shoot involved 60 men in friendly competition and camaraderie, laughs and lunch. One of our members spoke after lunch about his experience of the Lord's faithfulness through the trials of his life. This testimony showed that while life is not easy as a follower of Christ, Christ does faithfully stick by us. It was a great event to strengthen friendships and start new ones.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY—Christine De Haan

- **Women's Monthly Coffee Time:** On the second Thursday of each month from June thru August we met at Panera Bread for coffee. This time proved to be a wonderful fellowship experience for women of all ages. We met with no agenda, but to get time together to know one another better, befriend acquaintances, and share together in God's sweet fellowship. Many took advantage of a summer break and whose schedule was freed to enjoy a morning visit. Age was no barrier, whether 20 something or 90 something! A constant comment was this time together was a favorite Women's Ministry activity.
- **Women's Bible Study:** In addition to our regular Thursday morning studies we added a Tuesday evening study at Katie Spalding's home with a special interest for single women. This has met an important need for women who are looking to connect with a solid group of women. LaCinda Halls was co-leader with Katie. The study begins in September and is open to working women, married, and single.

WORSHIP ARTS—Tim Ports

- **Orchestra:** Glad to have orchestral musicians in our church! Many generations represented here. We will be working on arrangements of praise songs for worship and holiday arrangements for the Christmas season.
- **Choir:** Excited to start back up for the fall. We will be working on several choir arrangements of praise songs for church as well as a few Christmas choir arrangements for the holidays.
- **Praise Team:** We have been establishing a standard in heart and execution of leading our congregation to truly experience God through song every Sunday by first experiencing Him ourselves. This group is the face of worship in our church as we are on the platform most often. It is our vision to see lives changed in the presence of the Lord. Thankful for Chris Stallions who is a new guitarist joining our team.

- **Christmas Program:** Excited for our first Christmas program together. We will create our own program featuring our singers, praise band, choir, orchestra, and the spoken word. Come out for this celebration of Christ's birth!
- **Ministry:** We are teaching our group not only to be the [singing] voice to the church but to be a true [love] voice of hope to the world beyond. We carry the Holy Spirit with us wherever we go. We are in tune with hearing the voice of God through reading His Word and prayer and also be the speaking voice of God to those around us. We may be the only Bible someone ever reads. We are also looking forward to outreach opportunities in the community.

SATELLITE—Cory Ogborn

- **Guatemala:** This outreach continues to be a blessing! Seven young adults attended language school the week before this outreach and four stayed for language school the week after. In all, 21 participated from June 17 to July 1. We worked in a medical clinic, an after-school program, a sports outreach, a school for special needs, built stoves for homes, and served in lady's social work. Young people's lives were changed as they lived and interacted with the people of Guatemala. Four of our previous participants are now serving in full-time missions.
- **SkiWakeSurf:** This continues to be the highlight of the summer. Pastor Gavin Rogers of San Antonio Texas was our speaker. He is a champion for the homeless and marginalized in his community and around the world. Four young adults stayed after service one evening to speak with Gavin and me about choices. All of them were involved in smoking marijuana daily and two of them were drinking heavily. These two decided to walk away from that life and as of this writing they are doing well and very involved in Satellite. Pray for them. Yes, there were other triumphs, but these two bring tears to my eyes. God uses SWS to mold the hearts and minds of our young people.
- **Summer Swims:** Three times this summer we gathered by the pool to fellowship. This has been a great way to build community. It is important to practice "witness" which is, another word for witness.
- **Mid-Week:** "Summer Under The Psalms" was our sermon series. We have learned from the psalmist to cry out to God in challenging times and triumphs. "Young Adulthood" is a difficult time of life; community is very important! Finding a tribe is difficult, but so significant to connecting young people to the Church. Satellite is an incredible community of believers that eat, laugh, play, cry, and do life together. I continue to be so thankful for our cooks! Also, Jay and Delinda Irvine continue to do an awesome job as mentors.
- **ABF:** Each week we meet to discuss current events or dig deeper into the Psalm of the week. Please be praying for us — we are in need of mentors who will lead this Bible Study/Discussion.
- **Lead Team:** Currently serving are Jerod Dirker, Taryn Neese, Westley Crum, Denver Noell, Sawyer Nordell, and Craig Douglass. While there has been a lot of transition these past two years, this group is the backbone of our ministry. They are in charge of a variety of that include set-up, announcements, clean-up, lock-up, running our monthly game nights and planning events. I have seen so much growth in them as individuals and as a team. Please be praying for them by name!
- **Satellite Band:** Please be in prayer for TJ Wallace who recently took over its leadership. Many musicians have left for school or moved to a different department of the church and it has been difficult to find leaders on a weekly basis. However, God continues to bless us richly with music every Thursday!
- **Missions:** You have heard about our Guatemala Outreach as well as our Family Mission To Mexico. In addition, Patsy and Rick Turner served in Greece. Our 2018 Family Missions Festival is September 16 and one of the largest with 25 missionaries here on Sunday morning. We connected with Living Water World Missions (LWWM) for Vacation Bible School this summer. It was a great partnership, and many were blessed! We continue to look for ways to serve with LWWM.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY—Stephen Elliott

- **Swim N’ Study:** This summer we consistently had 75 or more people every Wednesday night. We met in the backyard of one of our church members to swim, eat together, and study God’s word. We spent 20-30 minutes reading a chapter of scripture, discussing its meaning, its purpose and application, in addition to swimming, eating hotdogs and hanging out. Yay God!
- **Beach Camp:** In July we took 105 students and 41 adults to Emma Wood State Beach. This year our African safari theme, “Wilderness & Wonder” looked at the stories of Israel as they journeyed in the wilderness. Our emphasis was “Life is a wilderness journey and God is using it to make us in the image of His Son, Jesus”. Our speaker, Thinus Van Der Merwe, is a South African native who did missions work for years in his home country and now serves as a youth pastor in southern California. He did an excellent job of communicating God’s word, challenging and personally engaging our students. One of my personal highlights of camp is always baptisms. This year 19 students were baptized.
- **GROW Groups:** We have 107 students signed up for our Wednesday night discipleship/accountability/relationship/Bible study groups that we call GROW Groups. We have 13 groups this year that are meeting in three different homes. These groups and their group leaders stay together all four years of High School. They often get together on their own just to spend more time together. These groups also meet every night after the message at Beach Camp to discuss and apply it.
- **Overtime:** On four Friday nights this football season, we’re going to open the Student Center after the game and have food, fun, and music in a safe place. Our students can come and invite their friends to church. We’re hosting two in September and two in October.
- **Student Outreach:** Our students continue to make the culture and environment of HSM better by welcoming visitors, inviting friends and including others. I don’t believe there was a single youth event this summer where there wasn’t at least one new visitor brought by a friend. There are regularly new visitors on Sunday mornings as well. Beyond that, the upper classmen have taken the initiative and regularly reach out to and befriend the incoming freshmen. It is so encouraging to see the students model to one another what it looks like to be a community that loves and cares for one another.
- **Staff Growth:** We are adding two more adult volunteers to our staff. One is taking a group of freshmen girls and is committed to seeing them through their senior year. Another adult joined our staff, to substitute where needed and serve in any way needed with students and staff. Praise God for these servants.

JR HIGH MINISTRY—Jared Irvine

- **Jr. High Summer Activities:** This summer we did many awesome fun events to build community. Our goal was to welcome new students and quickly acclimate them to Jr. High. It can be scary to join a new group, so I wanted the incoming sixth graders to be comfortable in Jr. High. To do this we had a full calendar of activities to create friendships and community: pool parties, a photo scavenger hunt, a movie, bowling, slip n slide kickball, The Island Water Park, and nerf wars! We had 25-35 students at each event. Judging from the enthusiasm, all involved had a great summer in Jr. High. Importantly, all the new students feel at home, which will springboard us into the fall.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Some 20 Jr. High students served at VBS as small group leaders and in other ways helped in any way needed. It blessed my heart to see so many giving back to the children of our church. I was so proud to see them being examples and role models to kids younger than themselves. I am so thankful that Jr. High students are able to serve in VBS and Children’s Sunday school. As a leader who pours into these students, it fills me with pride (the good kind of pride) to see them pour themselves out for others.
- **Hume Lake Summer Camp:** This July we went to Hume Lake for our summer camp. We had 20 students from our youth group and 4 leaders (Delinda Irvine, Ruthie Nadler, Steve Lyon, and me). The big news was that we were able to return to Hume Lake in the mountains for the first time in two years (we were in San Diego previously). This was a HUGE answer to prayer! The week’s spiritual theme covered the whole story of the Bible, it was about God’s love and rescue-plan of us. I think for many of our students they got a new understanding of the big picture of the Bible and how some of these seemingly unrelated events actually work together to make one coherent story. It was a fantastic week!