

State of the Church

Netherwood Park Church of Christ

August 2015

State of the Church

- ▶ Where are we going? We have a vision.
- ▶ What slows us down? We have challenges.
- ▶ What helps us get there? We have assets.
- ▶ What progress have we made? We have accomplishments
- ▶ How do we face our challenges? We have plans...
 - ▶ Plans that leadership can offer
 - ▶ Plans supported by our budgets
- ▶ Do you have plans?

We Have a Vision.

- ▶ 2020 Vision, developed in 2010.
 - ▶ BTW it's now 2015...
- ▶ Mission of the church: Make, Foster, and Grow Disciples of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Major Focus #1: Discipleship
- ▶ Major Focus #2: Evangelism
- ▶ Underlying longing: deeper relationships with other Christians.
- ▶ “Confident, committed, and sometimes uncomfortable.”

We have a Vision: Grow and Foster Disciples.

- ▶ A disciple commits himself to a *Master*, to love, learn from, imitate, and serve Him,
- ▶ Seven key ways we grow as disciples
 - ▶ Personal prayer
 - ▶ Personal Bible study
 - ▶ Participation in worship
 - ▶ Participation in a regular Bible class
 - ▶ Participation in a small group
 - ▶ Mentoring and being mentored
 - ▶ Engagement in a ministry of service

We have a Vision: Make Disciples.

- ▶ To bring good news, we engage with non-Christians and tell them the gospel.
- ▶ The gospel is eternal...
- ▶ ...but ways to engage change with the times.
- ▶ Discipleship enables evangelism.
- ▶ Evangelism multiplies discipleship.

We have a vision: personal commitment.

Fulfilling the vision requires commitment by each one of us:

- ▶ Intentionally pursuing the maturing of ourselves and others into the image of Christ
- ▶ Creating a community with bonds reminiscent of the 1st century
- ▶ Actively reaching out to glorify God and touching those who are lost

We Face Growing Challenges.

- ▶ Personal struggles with busy-ness and worldliness.
- ▶ Families and marriages under stress:
 - ▶ financial pressures
 - ▶ relationship issues
- ▶ Church challenges to turn desires into actions:
 - ▶ Individual spiritual growth
 - ▶ A place to serve for everyone
 - ▶ Better ways and roles in outreach
- ▶ Cultural challenges: a growing rejection of God's ways (Ezek. 18:25).

We are Blessed with Assets: We have a history of:

- ▶ Stability and continuity
- ▶ Family and acceptance
- ▶ Praying for each other
- ▶ Financial soundness
- ▶ Energy and ideas
- ▶ Generosity

We are blessed with assets: each other.

- ▶ Directory listings¹: 679 (493 adults)
- ▶ Sunday morning attendance²: 432 (down 2%)
- ▶ Percent in Bible Class²: 64% (down 1.7%)
- ▶ Percent in first service²: 41% (flat)
- ▶ Christians placing membership²: 41 (up 24%)
- ▶ Baptisms³: 20 (up 54%) (new to us=10)
- ▶ Wonderful Wednesday²: 125, down 7%.
- ▶ Sunday night plus small groups: 44+150.
- ▶ Contribution per person²: \$34.71, up 10%.

We have accomplishments.

- ▶ Outreach initiatives (Open House, Trunk or Treat, Christmas outreach, evangelistic small group pilot, WBS, brochures).
- ▶ Teaching initiatives (MOMs/men's, Men's retreat).
- ▶ Good works (pantry, vans for missionaries, donated a van).
- ▶ Better focus on building maintenance and repair.
- ▶ Communication initiatives (prayer cards, Facebook).

We have plans.

- ▶ Our stability and assets allow us to take our challenges, as opportunities.
- ▶ Opportunities include:
 - ▶ Staffing changes (supported and volunteer)
 - ▶ Teaching direction
 - ▶ Outreach initiatives

Opportunities in Staffing:

- ▶ We have the opportunity to remold our staff to match our vision
- ▶ We are looking carefully at what is most important to do...
- ▶ ...and who can best do it (supported staff/volunteer staff).
- ▶ We are the church: we favor volunteers unless:
 - ▶ The task is central to our mission and vision and requires:
 - ▶ Special expertise, or
 - ▶ Sustained focus, or
 - ▶ Dependability and consistency
 - ▶ ...beyond what we can achieve from volunteers.

Opportunities in Teaching:

- ▶ We will focus more this fall on hot topics in today's world.
 - ▶ Sermon series
 - ▶ “Hot topics” class
- ▶ We will continue the MOMS and Men's Class in the spring.
- ▶ We will continue to draw on and build on the potential of small groups.

Opportunities in Outreach:

- ▶ In the New Testament, we see conversions happen when:
- ▶ Christians and non-Christians are gathered together, in a way that the non-Christians are open to hearing what the Christians have to say.
- ▶ The simple Gospel is proclaimed.
- ▶ We need 21st century ways of gathering and proclaiming.
- ▶ We plan to try many things, and build on the ones that work.

We have a budget to support our plans.

- ▶ Proposed Budget FY 2015 - \$14,638/week
 - Flat to last year's goal
 - 5.7% increase over last year's actual contribution

Our Budget - where does the money come from?

- ◆ Your generous giving - \$13,849.40/week average contribution, or \$720,169.
 - 5.4% below our target of \$14,638.
 - After a 6.6% increase last year
 - Plus, designated giving of \$56,244: benevolence, youth, missions.
 - Plus, giving in kind (pantry, etc.)
- Other income: about \$10,000 in parking income and building use reimbursement.

Our Budget - Where Does the Money Go?

	FY 15-16		FY 14-15	
Salaries	322,571	41.8%	338,007	43.5%
Facilities	118,100	15.3%	117,100	15.1%
Missions	157,140	20.4%	154,860	20.0%
Benevolence	56,400	7.3%	56,400	7.3%
In-Reach	41,325	5.4%	39,125	5.0%
Out-Reach	34,640	4.5%	33,460	4.3%
Education	11,600	1.5%	10,350	1.3%
General	29,650	3.8%	26,850	3.5%
Total	771,426	100.0%	776,152	100.0%

Budget - Significant ups and downs:

- ▶ What will go up?
 - Maintenance (equipment and vans)
 - In-reach (Youth, Counseling)
 - Missions (cost of living increases for missionaries)
 - Education (materials, miscellaneous)
- ▶ What will go down?
 - Salaries (staff changes actual and projected)

Budget—do you want to know more?

- ▶ This eldership is committed to transparency in the handling of money.
- ▶ The detailed budget is always posted.
 - Including salary information
- ▶ This presentation will be posted on Netherwood's website
- ▶ We are always available to answer any questions you may have.

We Must Focus On What Is Important

Fulfilling the vision requires commitment by each one of us:

- ▶ Intentionally Pursuing the Maturing of Ourselves and Others Into the Image of Christ
- ▶ Creating a Community with Bonds Reminiscent of the 1st Century
- ▶ Actively Reaching Out to Glorify God and Touching Those Who Are Lost

Do you have plans ?

- ▶ How will you view your challenges, as opportunities?
- ▶ What will you do:
 - ▶ To better know, imitate, and serve of Christ?
 - ▶ To be a 24x7 example to those around you?
 - ▶ To build deeper relationships other Christians?
 - ▶ To grow in service to a ministry?
 - ▶ To help non-Christians hear the Good News?
 - There's a way and place for everyone. They differ.