

View from the Ridge
2018 ANNUAL MEETING



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PROGRESS & OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Aspen Ridge Family,

Greetings, and I trust you are well. I am writing these words on Labor Day Weekend, with leaves on aspen trees already beginning to turn. We are moving into the fall season, and this becomes an important occasion to review how God has been at work in the life of our church and to prayerfully anticipate His presence and favor in our future.

What a joy it is for my wife and I to live out the Christian faith in the context of this faith community! I am now entering my tenth year as pastor of Aspen Ridge Church. You have been so gracious and supportive of me and my family. My wife, Mary, is thriving and is deeply involved in our church and community. Our daughter, Kelly (and her husband Joe), are expecting their first child, our first grandchild, around Thanksgiving. Our son, John (and his wife Katrina), are faithfully serving God's mission at Red Rocks Church, Arvada. Our youngest son, David, is majoring in Biblical Studies at Biola University and has completed an introduction to New Testament Greek. God has been working in our extended family to raise up kingdom workers, and the same is true in the life of our local church – Aspen Ridge.

Let's begin with some "God sightings." Every time a person gathers in corporate worship, and every time our small groups come together in weekend celebration of God's worth and work, it is a huge win. Our *Live It Out* vision involves a practical demonstration of God's love toward our community through our small groups. God led us to identify Eric Krajewski to provide leadership to this initiative, and I am pleased to indicate we are now offering some 27 adult small groups. Average attendance at our weekend gathering of corporate worship has been 302.

We also see God at work as He builds up kingdom workers toward God's mission in the world. I am pleased to share that we had many service projects this year toward our neighbors and community. We helped clean up Marshdale Park and initiated a GEMS Bible Study at Marshdale Elementary School. We helped maintain downtown Evergreen with a service team. We provided support to mothers-in-crisis through Life's Options. Our churchwide service project in August brought some 80 people together in service of our community.

We also see God at work through evangelistic initiatives and favorable responses to the gospel message. I am pleased to say that we conducted some 8 outreach events, including special holiday services, RidgeFest, Aspen Hollow, Adam's Road, Vacation Bible School, a community Thanksgiving event and others. Through these and the regular teaching of God's Word, we know of 89 faith commitments, 78 of these in children's ministry alone! Among these, eight have taken the public step of identification with Christ in the waters of baptism.

Thank you also for your generous support of this ministry. Last year we received some \$640,000 in sacrificial giving to our general fund. This number represents an increase of 3% over the previous year. It shows that our people value this work and have ownership of the ministry. Responsible stewardship has kept our expenses about 5% under budget. The result has been a favorable cash flow, which will be proposed by church leadership toward further investments in the fulfillment of our mission.

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Alongside of these signs of progress and advance, we surely face challenges. Evergreen is a place that is, in large part, happily lost. A majority of our population has a bias toward recreation and a measure of discretionary income. This may translate into little time and inclination toward the things of God. Our challenge (and opportunity) is to herald a gospel that provides supreme joy in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We invested more than a little bandwidth through our small groups into *Contagious Christian*, a curriculum designed to teach us how to give effective witness of our faith to friends and family. Please continue to pray with me that God moves through these prayers to evangelistic fruit. With faith commitments of 78 children, we recognize the need and opportunity to provide support for our children and student ministries. We invest in families so the generation to come may know the treasures of the gospel. There are significant opportunities to make such investments through Debbie Stewart (Director of Children's Ministries) toward generating leaders for the future of the Christian church.

We were pleased to thank Matt Johnson for his faithful work during our Worship Arts search, and also welcome Nate Rees to similar interim work. Please continue to pray for our search for a permanent and full time Pastor of Worship Arts. Further, our leadership intends to continue to support and invest in our communication initiatives, including upgrading our church website.

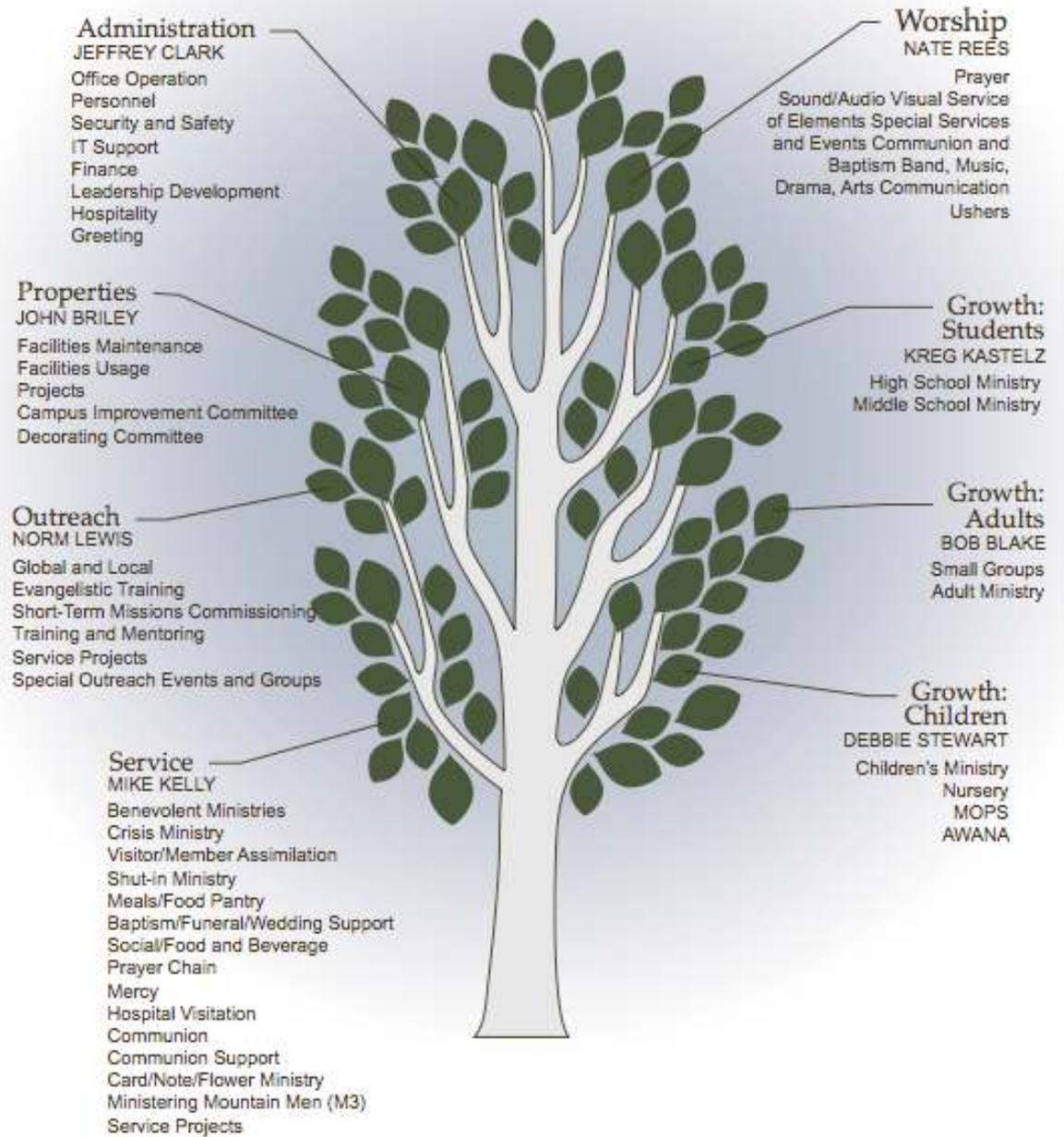
I am trusting that God will carry His mission and His Word forward in ways that lead people to find a home in Christ together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeffrey Clark
Senior Pastor, Aspen Ridge Church

MINISTRY TEAM GRAPHIC: THRIVE

FINDING **YOUR** PLACE TO SERVE AND GROW
IN THE MINISTRY TEAMS



STUDENT MINISTRIES

This last year has been a great one for student ministries in many ways, but also challenging in others. This year has really felt like a year where DNA change has been happening in the student ministries; student ownership levels are increasing, and relationships are being deepened between students and leaders. With change, however, comes challenge. We have had a smaller average attendance this year, due to a number of different factors – students looking for something different in youth group, some of the older students seemed to have left because DV8 isn't the same as they remember, or in some cases, the students' families left for a different church.

Despite the challenges, we've seen big strides in the growth and depth of the ministry. Students are learning to own their faith, love Jesus and work out a Christian life for themselves. I have had students wanting to start prayer groups, as well as Bible studies. Students have felt close enough to my leaders and myself that they have opened up and are sharing very deep pains, struggles and stories. Students have also become closer in the realm of caring for each other in the Christian body.

Seek – As a church, we measure how many are seeking God regularly in attendance.

School-year midweek attendance: 37

School-year Sunday attendance: 23

Summer midweek attendance (Back Porch): 30

Summer Sunday attendance: 8

Serve – We attempt to assess the percentage of attendees who are actively serving in church ministry.

This percentage is a little hard to come by when looking at the youth ministry, since their roles are not always known or defined. I will focus on the second part of this, which is the number of service projects students were involved in for the year, and the small group count:

Service Projects: 13

Small Groups: 9 (3 Sunday, 3 middle school, 3 high school)

Share – We are reaching others through outreach-type events – based on a spiritual impact in people's lives, moreso than a physical one. These include feeding the homeless and talking to them about Christ, getting a youth group event presence at the local football game and writing notes to hurting people in the community.

Outreach projects: 5

Salvations: 1

Baptisms: 2

Guests at DV8: 30+

In the coming year, I want to instill a desire for kids to reach friends. I feel it's on the verge of catching. We had a big uptick on visitors in the youth ministry and have had a number of new faces attending over the last year. There have also been incredible stories from students about sharing Christ with their friends. I have also been working on my presence "on campus" with students over the last year, and I'm hoping to see some traction with newcomers. We are also going to be diving deeper with students in special interest groups...one example being the Christian Men's living group that has already begun. I am looking forward to 2019!

Respectfully submitted,

Kreg Kastelz

Associate Pastor of Student Ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Seek.

The children at Aspen Ridge have been consistently and genuinely seeking Christ each week through children's church, small group discussions, Bible reading and worship. Children are also seeking Christ at MOPs and AWANA, where Christ's love is reinforced by biblical knowledge and understanding.

- We have seen 78 conversions for the year (also includes AWANA and VBS).
- 5 baptisms.
- Average weekend attendance of 60-90 children.
- Average Wednesday AWANA attendance of 115.

Serve.

We have been focusing this year on serving others locally and across the world. Service projects the children have done this year have been:

- September – Elementary class made baskets for homeless Veterans.
- October – Elementary class made Thanksgiving door hangers for the Senior Center in Evergreen.
- November – For Veterans Day all the children made flags and thank you cards for the Veterans.
- December – All children made Christmas cards for Ryland Ward. He is a surviving 5-year-old victim of a church shooting in Texas.
- March – Elementary class made Easter baskets for homeless Veterans. The elementary children enjoyed handing out Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts.
- Operation Christmas Child – Children donated approximately 200 boxes. (400 total)
- AWANA children collected over 680 lbs of food donations for Life Bridge Food Pantry in Bailey.
- VBS collected over \$1000 for *Hope Lives* (school in Uganda). Children were very passionate and generous for this mission to provide funding for these children's schooling.
- Children's Ministry celebrates 21 small groups.

Share.

Children's Ministry has been sharing God with others in the following ways this year:

- RidgeFest (last September) had over 350 people in attendance for this community outreach. Donations were given to Mountain Resource Center of ~\$150.
- Aspen Hollow (October) shared God's love with the community. About 400 people came through the 'Hollow,' getting showered with the positive message of God's love and community.
- In April, we shared Easter and egg-hunting joy with over 450 people at the MOPs Hop. There was brunch, pictures with the bunny and a petting zoo. This event made the front page of the Hustler and Courier.
- In June, we hosted VBS with Go Fish *VICTORY*. 200 children attended. ~80 volunteers served. 41 children accepted Christ! 12 children expressed interest in becoming baptized.
- We have implemented 2 family services this year. This is an opportunity for families to worship together. A children's sermon is presented at these services.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Stewart
Director of Children's Ministries

ADULT SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10)

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28)

God is moving in the Aspen Ridge small group ministry! We currently have 27 small groups scheduled for the fall season. The small groups available are a creative mix of sermon-based, topic-based and interest-based groups. The interest-based groups are designed to be fun groups that both supplement regular small group attendance for members, as well as provide a great opportunity to invite neighbors who do not attend church. Aspen Ridge first experimented with these interest-based, or affinity groups, over the summer of 2018 and with God's favor, they carried over into our fall season.

A healthy small group at Aspen Ridge is made up of people who assemble in Christ's name for 3 primary things—to learn, love and do.

Learn - Small groups are learning laboratories. In our topical and sermon-based small groups, we learn God's word as we wrestle and yearn. In our interest-based small groups we learn about specific interests such as fishing, knitting and hunting. We learn about each other as we listen to each other. Quite frankly, we also learn about ourselves.

Love - Small groups at Aspen Ridge are places where we experience God's love for us. They are also a place where God's love and grace overflows from us to those around us.

Do - Small groups are places we "do." Do life together. Do worship together. Do evangelism together. Do service projects together. We are better together. This summer, small groups did a church wide service project together called *Get Out* where we got out and served the community at Evergreen Lake, Downtown Evergreen and Marshdale. We picked weeds, painted, cleaned up, handed out waters and smiled at the community.

Make a difference in the world. If you are not currently involved in a healthy small group, I would like to encourage you to get plugged in today. I can help you do just that. I am offering personalized consulting sessions where I get to know you better and then make recommendations that may be a good fit for you. A quicker more informal discussion is another option. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to work out your faith in community. May God continue to bless and grow the small group ministry at Aspen Ridge!

Blessings,

Eric Krajewski
Director of Adult Small Groups

SERVICE MINISTRIES

The first order of business is to say a big “thank you” to everyone at Aspen Ridge who has been a part of the service ministry.

Did you know there are no less than 10 different active ministries that fall under the Aspen Ridge Service Ministries? Those involved work tirelessly (usually behind the scenes) and deserve much more thanks than they receive. So, say “thank you” the next time you see: a greeter at the door, someone making and serving coffee, someone at the welcome desk, those preparing the monthly communion elements, those who support baptisms or funerals, those heading off to their M3 Ministries or a local service project, the cooks preparing the weekly Wednesday Night Dinners, those who prepare the frozen meals to be given away, those who provide a visit or card to those who need it and if you are at the Sunday potluck, you can even applaud right now for those who set up the food, tables and beverages needed for the very event we are now enjoying. These are all Aspen Ridge’ers who have servant hearts and are using their spiritual gifts and talents to support this ministry.

Most of these ministries have dedicated members as leaders, but the Deacon team is charged with managing all of these things so, a personal thank you goes to Carol Battersby, Eric Krajewski, Ed Marcy, Carol Reinoehl and Daniel Sheffer.

Praise God - This fiscal year over \$7,300 was donated to the Benevolent Fund. It is this loving support, as motivated by God, that provides the funds to help those in need. These needs included (but not limited too) home and auto repairs, rent and mortgage payments, counseling expenses and literally putting food on the table. As a reminder, on the communion weekend of each month a special offering is taken to replenish the Benevolent Fund. God continually amazed us by financially providing every penny needed; we serve an amazing God!!

Personally, I am very excited to see what God will do next through the Aspen Ridge Service Ministry. There are terrific ideas that have come from the many who have been involved with the various aspects of this ministry, and as God directs, we are working on implementing many of these ideas to support our vision of “inviting neighbors to find a home in Christ together.”

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kelly
Ministry Team Lead, Service Ministry

PROPERTIES MINISTRY

During this past year the Properties Ministry Team accomplished the following:

Property Care and Building Use Activities

- Oversight of janitorial service work performed by our contractor (Patrick Murphy).
- Oversight of ongoing maintenance, repairs and improvements by the staff Maintenance Technician (Marty Lake).
- Execution of more than 50 construction, fix-up and painting tasks on the main church building, Parsonage, Annex and campus by Church Care Crew (CCC) volunteers.
- Oversight on the use of the church building by Aspen Ridge and outside groups.

Projects

- Parking lot pavement repair and crack filling,
- Building Exterior Upgrade - completed siding, painted trim, upgraded landscaping rock.
- Replaced crank-out windows on lower level.
- Replaced carpet in (2) rooms of KidZone and in the Student Center

For the upcoming year, the Properties Ministry Team will continue to oversee property care and building use activities.

If funds are available, we look forward to planning and carrying out projects during the upcoming year as follows:

- Complete building perimeter landscaping (plant trees & shrubs).
- Replace worn and wrinkled carpet in KidZone classrooms.
- Replace composition flat roof with thermoplastic (TPO) roof.
- Complete replacement of crank-out windows.
- Run cable for security cameras
- Replace lighting in the sanctuary

Respectfully submitted,

John Briley and Jeff Goodwin
Properties Ministry Team Lead and Senior Advisor

OUTREACH MINISTRY

The outreach team seeks to “enable relationships for our church family to pursue God’s calling for ministry.”

Over the last year we have connected with our 24 supported ministry partners. Five of them are local (Jerusalem), eight of them are in the United States (Judea – Samaria) and eleven of them are scattered across the globe (the ends of the Earth) in India, Mexico, Japan, North Africa, Honduras, Russia, Uganda and Papua New Guinea.

We are constantly looking for ways to promote and connect our partners with the congregation. Over the past year, VBS was able to raise over \$1,000 for our school in Uganda. We have had several of our partners stop in and share with us about how God is working through their ministry.

We look forward to the next year, as we hope to publish a booklet to promote our partners and look to sponsor and coordinate a youth/family trip to support our school and work in Uganda. We also expect to have a few changes in our support list and look forward to finding new relationships to partner with us in spreading the gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Lewis
Outreach Ministry Team Lead