



**FOCUS MEETING**  
Sunday, Jan 27  
7pm, Chapel

# FOCUS!

SEPT-DEC 2018





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# Senior Pastor

Two of our Core Values at UBC are Transforming Communities and Sacrificial Generosity. In just about every Focus Book you'll find stories where these values are illustrated, sometimes in quite extravagant ways, and this edition is certainly no different. As we drew near to publication time, I was reminded by some of our staff of how the sacrificial generosity of our membership in maintaining and developing our campus and facilities creates constant opportunities for our community to find their way to our door and spend time here in our house of worship.

- Every year that I've been at UBC, and several years before me, the local chapter of Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) for women has met here weekly during the school year.
- Every major election sees the UBC chapel transform into a polling location, as numerous residents in our immediate vicinity come here to volunteer and to vote.
- Multiple fitness and running groups meet at UBC, some weekly and some daily.
- The Bay Area Music Teachers' Association has held events here as recently as this past semester.
- CCISD and individual schools in our district have used UBC facilities for PTA gatherings, teachers' meetings, and music events, including a joint choir of 500 high school boys, along with their fathers and grandfathers (see picture below).

- Our local AME (African Methodist Episcopal) church held their Women of the Gospel conference here this past semester.

- Our local Boy Scout and Sea Scout troops meet at UBC throughout the year.

- Every Friday during the school year a local home school co-op uses our building for joint educational opportunities.

All of these ministries take place completely apart from our church's calendar, staff, advertising, and communication efforts. They are independent, external community ministries, organizations, and programs that come to us for space to meet, sing, learn, grow, and celebrate. And most of these things happen without many in our church family even knowing about it!

Throughout the years, the members of our church have made our campus and facilities a priority of ministry, not only for our own immediate church family but also for our community. And the Lord has been, and continues to be, faithful in opening doors for us to connect with our neighbors and play numerous roles in Transforming our Community here in the Bay Area, thanks in large part to the ongoing sacrificial generosity of UBC members like yourself. This book is your book. It is your family at work. It is full of your stories; your testimonies; your Kingdom work.

Thanks for everything you do to make this such a special place.

Steven Laufer  
SENIOR PASTOR



# Executive Director

We were blessed to spend Christmas morning through New Year's Day with our twin three-year-old grandsons, and their nine-month-old brother in Portland, OR. Oh, and their parents were there also. Beautiful boys, in a beautiful family, in a beautiful place.

The weekend after Christmas we attended their Saturday evening church service. During the service my attention was drawn to the stage rear curtains. They alternated between purple and black. I immediately thought about the contrast between God's majesty represented in the purple and my own sin represented by the black. I felt the Lord quiet me, so I left that thought. Later in the service I realized they were not alternating curtains. All the curtains were black, but every other one was lit by a purple light. The Lord then clearly brought to my mind that it isn't about my darkness, it's about His light and glory.

*The Lord has blessed us as a beautiful people, in a beautiful family, in a beautiful place called UBC, to "Connect People to God's Kingdom."*

It is easy to listen to those voices that distract us from reflecting God's Glory to those around us. They can be so subtle and reasonable with their partial truths. But it is much more fulfilling to be obedient to God's call and instructions and then watch as the light of His Truth and Glory brings hope and life to those we encounter. Many times, it simply requires us to quiet ourselves, wait on the Lord to reveal the reality of who we are in Him, and follow His lead.

The Focus Book is full of stories and accounts of people who have done just that. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things. As you read these accounts and reports, I hope the Lord uses them to encourage you as we walk through this journey in "Becoming a Family of Christ Followers."

The Lord has blessed us as a beautiful people, in a beautiful family, in a beautiful place called UBC, to "Connect People to God's Kingdom."

Be strong and courageous,

David Mobley  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

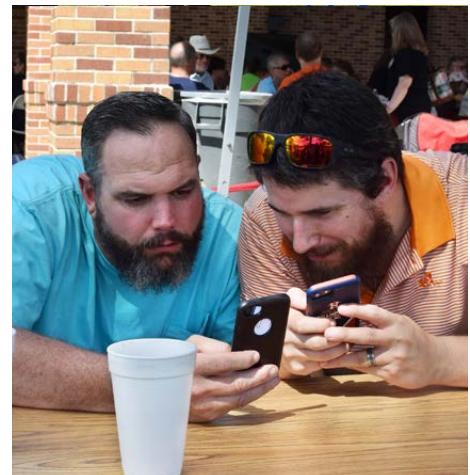
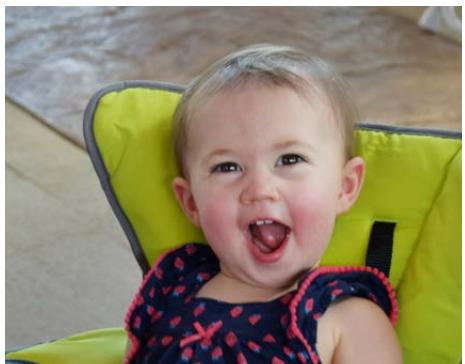


## Family Picnic

One of our church goals is to host four Family Picnics at the Pavilion this year! Over 300 people attended the first picnic on October 14.

We want to share life together and connect with each other, and our Family Picnics help us do those things. Watch for more picnics in 2019 and be sure to invite a friend.







Our Family Ministries staff watched the weather for weeks and prayed for the expected thunderstorms to turn.

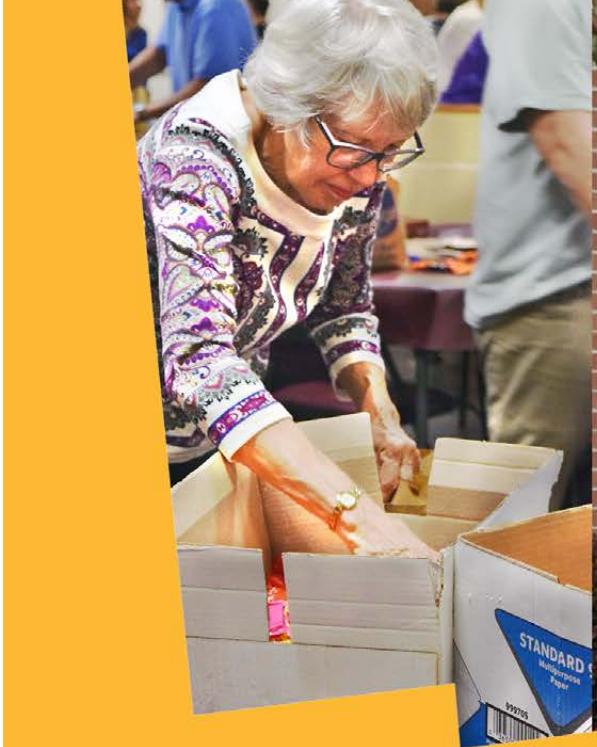
It's a hard call – not to mention disappointing – to cancel Fall Festival. Once the decision was made to cancel this year, volunteers came to the rescue of making 722 candy bags on the morning of October 31. In 50 minutes, bags were filled and loaded onto flatbeds and carts awaiting those who would come to our Candy Pick-Up Drive Thru at the Chapel entrance that evening.

As the rain continued throughout the morning, the day was not a total loss for our preschoolers of Weekday Ministries. The Fall Festival preschool games were set up in the chapel for the children to enjoy while dressed in their pajamas rather than a costume. At the end of their day, the children were surprised with a candy bag. Their faces were priceless!

The Drive Thru was steady, at times needing two car lines. Luke Skywalker (Steve Laufer) took pictures with all the kids dressed up in a Star Wars costume. We also saw Batman, Superman, clowns, cowgirls, and cowboys. Perhaps the most entertaining character was Kyle Wilson dressed as a sloth (this year's mascot for the students' Fall Retreat). He had us all laughing at his silly antics on this dreary, rainy night.

Even though it wasn't what we originally planned, it was a fantastic day! Thank you to the many volunteers and UBC staff who assisted with "plan B."





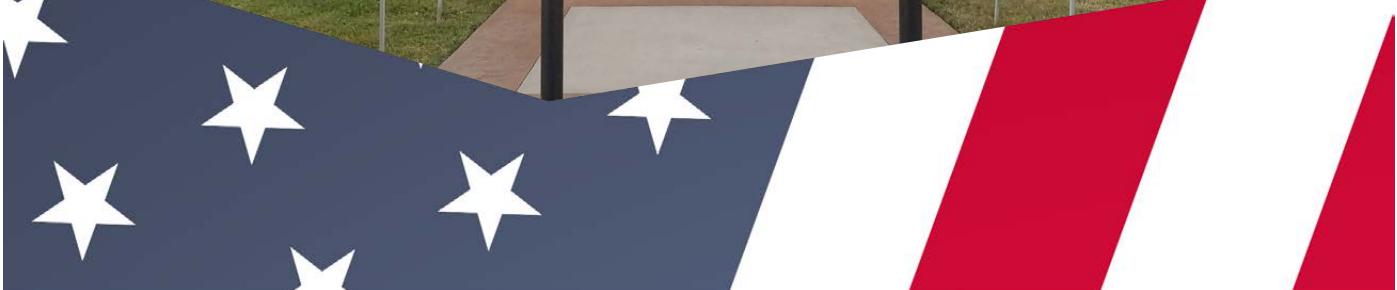
# Serving Ministries

## Veteran's Day

UBC celebrated Veteran's Day in style with a concert that was co-organized and led by several friends who are veterans from The Mercy Tree ministries. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. We collected two extra-large boxes full of packages of new socks and underwear and donated them to the local VA hospital.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 870 (chartered by UBC) led the color guard, several local musicians played Oldies and Country music, and great volunteers and kitchen personnel smoked brisket and provided all of the fixins. A mobile 9-hole mini-golf course was also onsite to add to the festivities. Thank you to all who participated in this event that brought together Mercy Tree clients, veterans, and others from the community to appreciate and honor the sacrifices of our armed forces.





## Spanish Ministry

One of our church goals for “Becoming Family” in 2019 is to expand UBC’s outreach with a Spanish-language ministry. For two years, we have had a Spanish-language Weekend Bible Study (WBS) group named “Vastago de Gracia” [aka “Shoot” or “Stem” of Grace], and they are a fantastic group of people. They are involved in our Children’s and Student Ministries, they lead a Bible study on Wednesday evenings, and they have participated in many of our serving trips, including ones in Los Angeles, in the Rio Grand Valley on Spring Break, and in the Dominican Republic. They interrelate to each other as a family, and the larger UBC community has already benefited from their positive outlook and ministry focus.

The Executive Committee approved the part-time hire of Freddy Coronado to help develop the group into a larger ministry of UBC. Freddy and his wife, Sharon, are a dynamic duo and they have been meeting and working alongside the UBC pastoral team to get this important ministry launched. Vastago de Gracia meets for Bible study in the Chapel during the 9:30 hour on Sundays and they join the 11 o’clock worship service, where translation/interpretation is provided through wireless earpieces.

Starting in January, the gathering at 9:30 hour will include worship in Spanish. All UBCers are invited to attend Vastago de Gracia on Sunday mornings. It might be a good place for many of us to practice our Spanish-language skills! You can also connect with the Spanish-language ministry though Facebook by Liking their page, UBC en Español.

-Aaron Glenn



**UBC en Español**  
@latinosdeubc

## Driving With Care Hangs Up Its Keys

One of the best serving ministries of UBC is hanging up its keys after 16 years. Driving With Care was a ministry that gave people rides to and from their hospital appointments. In these latter years, the ministry was focused primarily on helping cancer patients access their treatments.



"There are so many people without any connections in the community," says Pat Garrett, the 15-year veteran leader of the ministry. "People are adrift," she says, "or they have loved ones who can't take off work to drive them every day for 6 weeks to their chemotherapy sessions." Transportation is one of those huge needs that people aren't aware of unless they know someone who is in need of ongoing medical treatment.



Over the years, Driving With Care had personal contact with over 1,200 people in the community, the vast majority being otherwise not associated with UBC. It was a real ministry of presence. The time spent in transit to the medical center provided many opportunities to discuss the difficult physical, mental, and often spiritual dilemmas that people were going through as they faced their mortality. "People would talk to us [volunteer drivers] about death and pain and things they couldn't talk to their loved ones about," says Pat.

As relationships with the patients developed, and as needs were apparent, many of the volunteers found their compassion pushing them into broader service to these individuals. This included admitting someone to the hospital who had become too sick during treatment to be driven home. It also, unfortunately, included making funeral arrangements for people who didn't have others in their life who could do so. It even included taking people to the airport who wanted to visit relatives in their home country before they passed away. Of course, there were plenty of opportunities to celebrate recovery and remission with new-found friends as well!

Driving With Care volunteers have been the presence of Christ to others "in the valley" of their lives. A combination of factors led them to officially close down the ministry this fall. Traffic congestion and age of many of the volunteers is a primary factor making the downtown drives to the Medical Center a bigger challenge. On the positive side of the equation is the introduction of "newer" treatment hospitals that have popped up in SE Houston in the past years making treatment more accessible for local folks. In addition to that, the advent of Uber and other relatively convenient transportation services have given patients a few more options that they didn't have when Driving With Care started up in 2002.

Please join the rest of UBC in saying "Thank You" to all who participated in the Driving With Care ministry. They have inspired us with their Kingdom work!





## Space Weekend

Space Weekend 2018 included 90 international students, volunteers, and staff from 11 different countries! They came from University of Texas-Dallas, Southern Methodist University, and Richland College to Houston and stayed with host homes throughout the weekend. Students toured NASA and heard astronaut Bob Hines share his education, career, and faith. On Sunday, the group came to UBC to attend morning services, Bible study, and eat lunch at the Pavilion. It was a fun weekend and a great outreach!



# Faith@Home

## 5 Love Languages

This fall, Faith@Home launched a 6-week campaign focusing on *The Five Love Languages*. The goal was to help our church family learn how to express love to their loved ones in a way that fills their “Love Tank.” Through the campaign, people learned that their love language may be as different from their loved one’s as French is from English; each person has a primary way of expressing and receiving love. Knowing someone’s primary love language is like knowing their favorite foods. Just because someone really enjoys pasta doesn’t mean they never enjoy burgers. The fact that a spouse or child most benefits from quality time does not mean you should avoid words of affirmation. On the contrary, we show love in all five ways even while becoming particularly intentional about a loved one’s primary love language. When we show others love in the primary love language, it is as if we are filling their love tank, Like putting gas in a car, each time you speak to them in their language you make a deposit in their love tank that gives them emotional fuel for the day.

During the campaign, many weekend Bible classes used one of the 5 Love Languages books by Gary Chapman. These small groups had great discussions not only on how to love each other better, but also how God demonstrates to us that he loves us through all of the different love languages! Not only were the participants in the small groups able to learn how to love each other deeply, in many cases the whole family was learning about the 5 Love Languages and great conversation happened around Sunday lunch tables---families having conversations about how to love each other better.

The Porch was the hub for the 5 Love Languages (5LL). Groups could take a selfie at The Porch as well as collect 5LL bracelets. Fridge magnets were available so people could personalize their loved one’s love language to help remember what love language to speak to these special people. And to further help people keep track of what love languages others spoke, wallet cards were available for everyone to allow them to carry around a reminder of what love languages to speak to their loved ones.

The goal of this campaign was based on 1 Peter 4:8: *Love each other deeply.*



## Why does UBC have Date Nights?

Date nights are important to married couples. A big reason couples do not have regular date nights is because of the expense and logistical difficulties of childcare. So to facilitate Date Night for couples, UBC intentionally offers fantastic activities for children ages birth through eighth grade. Parents then can have a night for themselves and invest in their marriage! We hope couples realize the need to have this time together and will make it a priority in their marriage.

In September, our Date Night theme was Falling Deeper in Love. Couples were given conversation starters to use during their night out. Many shared their date night pictures, and the one with the best Fall Themed picture was Greg and Kimberly Allen!

While falling deeper in love, couples had great conversation and lots of fun!

On November 30, our Date Night was Selfie Fun With Christmas Carols. The couples were challenged to take a few selfies that depicted a variety of Christmas carols.

Our selfie winners for the night were:

Most Creative  
The Purcells

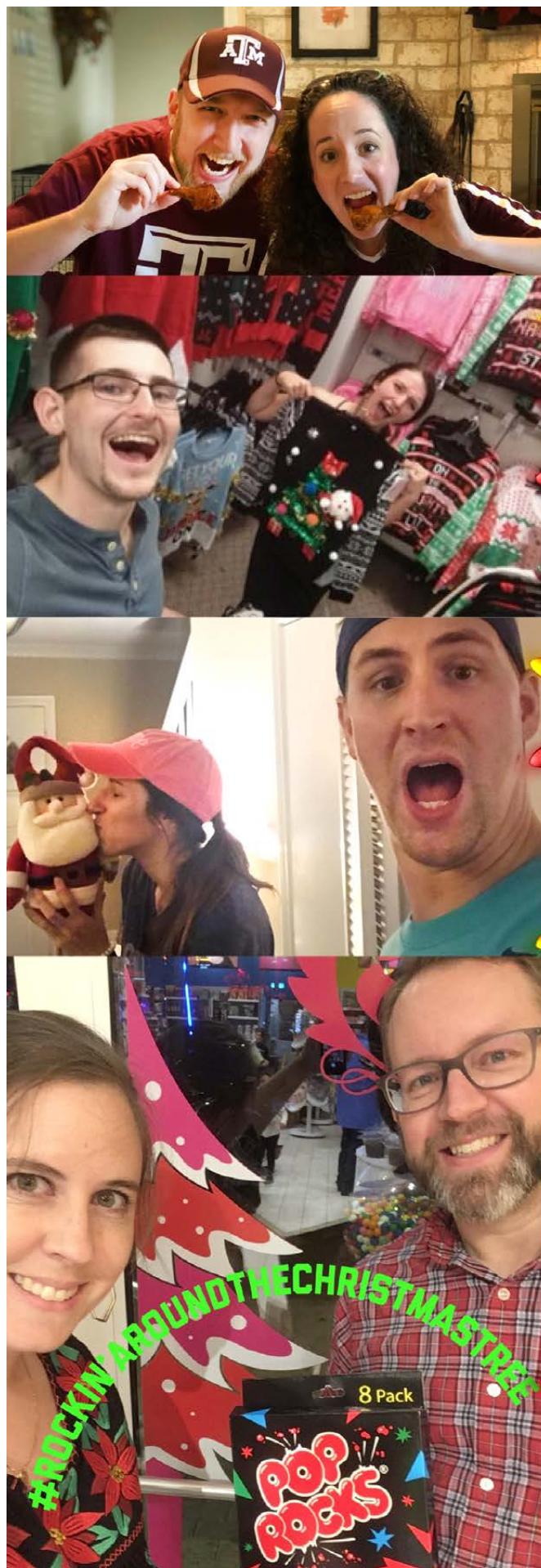
Best Representation  
The Boyettes

Absolute Cutest  
The Martinets!

Having fun as a couple is essential ...and all of the couples did a great job of just having fun!

Investing in marriage should be a priority, and we strive to be a church that supports couples in being intentional about their relationship.

*\*Pictures from top to bottom: The Allens, The Purcells, The Boyettes & The Martinets*



## Faith@Home Fall 2018 Forums

Building faith at home is a challenge. Whether you're single or married, have young children or are an empty-nester, we want to provide practical resources and step-by-step guidance to nurture faith at home. A variety of forums were provided during the Fall of 2018, that were designed to help you in challenging areas of your life.

Our first fall forum featured Tony Davila, Director of Parent Assistance for CCISD. He shared tips with parents about how to handle behaviors in children of ALL ages! His focus included:

- Correcting fluently
- How to teach and model wanted behaviors
- Teaching kids how to set appropriate boundaries using assertive language and tone

It was a great event and parents left feeling like they had more "tools" in their toolbelt!

There are times in our lives that we seem to hit a brick wall. In October, Charny Beck, MEd, LMSW from STCH Ministries, led a session on burnout! She addressed the fact that many people find themselves in a place where they are emotionally and physically exhausted with family, work, and life! During the presentation, she talked about the unavoidable truths regarding leadership and burnout, nine markers of burnout, and how we find hope as we travel the road back from burnout to be a blessing again. Charny did a great job helping people recognize what it looks like so that we can be aware and find resources to help recover from burnout.

"Teens and Technology. OH, MY!"

Kimberly Collins (STCH Ministries LPC) presented our November forum, geared to all parents. Technology changes at warp speed, as does our concern for our kids' safety in today's digital age. During this presentation, Kimberly shared information about the apps our teens use and how to journey along with them, putting up boundaries when needed. Through the presentation, she also shared information on the formation of a teen's brain. Not only did parents receive information on technology, they also came away with information on how a teen's brain works.

Faith@Home is a helping resource for our church family and our community. We exist to help you become intentional about building faith into everyday life. These three forums helped us in our mission as we discussed a wide range of topics.

## Adult Ministries

### Hymn Sing

On Sunday, September 30, many of our church members gathered in the Chapel for a special service of hymns and music. We had about 75 people at our second hymn sing of the year, filling all the chairs. Guy Cagle led with special music from John Sweitzer and Joan Traylor on the piano throughout the morning. So many of the hymns that were sung recalled memories from church services many years ago.



## Men's Ministries

### Men's Conference

November 9-10, our Men@UBC ministry held their first Men's Conference since the ministry was relaunched in 2017. The conference was titled "Disrupted." We invited Tierce Green to come and speak, and over three sessions he led us through powerful talks about disrupting our lives and seeking biblical manhood. Our contemporary worship band led in two of the three sessions. In between our sessions, we held talk times where we broke into small groups and discussed the key ideas Tierce Green shared. Using this conference as a stepping stone, our Men's Ministry will be launching a *33 The Series* group in January. Great things are going on with our Men@UBC ministry.



# Women's Ministries

## Tapestry Dinner – The Largest Women's Outreach Event of the Year

Tapestry Night is a big, beautiful deal! UBC women go all out inviting friends and guests for an evening of fun decorations, delicious food, and great conversation. We plan all year for this huge event and attendees were not disappointed. The Fellowship Hall was draped in white lights, and the Chapel looked like a Cathedral. We hosted five tables for crisis workers and volunteers from local shelters that enjoy a partnership with UBC. We wanted to give back to them in a unique way. Also included were six tables of international women and friends. The fun and photography and selfies were enjoyed by all, and don't forget all the handsome UBC men that served so tirelessly all evening. Over 300 women enjoyed a meal and then adjourned to the Worship Center for a delightful presentation by Anna Kang, a church planter from The House Los Angeles. Anna's message struck a chord especially with our international friends who joined us that evening. A huge thank you goes out to everyone that contributed to the evening. We are already hard at work planning for next year. Put Nov. 7, 2019 on your calendar!





## Illumination Arts Ministry

Illumination Arts Ministry (IAM) is enjoying our third year of celebrating creativity for Christ. 2018 was very exciting! Our first art show was installed on the wall outside the Worship Center on the second floor. Seven artists on the IAM leadership team displayed their art. We are blessed to have such talented, caring, and dedicated artist leaders who love the Lord and want to help others find creative ways to praise God. Our next show will be in the spring. It will be open for all to submit art to UBC for consideration to be part of the show. A call for artists will be sent out in January.

Monthly, we had a variety of guest artists tell their story and teach their art form. Our guest artist for November was Jessica Christian, a knitting artist who creates beautiful knitted dolls and clothing. We had so much interest in the knitting demonstration that Jessica has started a knitting group that meets on Mondays from 10 am-12 pm at UBC. She teaches those who want to learn knitting and helps those who want to take their knitting to the next level.

We are looking forward to 2019. We are planning to have a Saturday workshop in the spring featuring mixed media greeting card design. We hope that those who are interested in learning to create cards may be interested in joining us in a card ministry. We plan to create art cards to give those who are in need of encouragement. Stay tuned for dates and times.



## Groups for Women

One thing I appreciate most about UBC women is their insatiable hunger for more of God through his Word. We offer groups for every level of interest regarding scholarship and learning. Women enjoyed "Esther" led by Kathy Bailey on Tuesday mornings, "Isaiah" led by Holly Sincox on Wednesday evenings, and a few home groups. Thinking Faith Academy met on Wednesday evenings led by Kymberlee Allen and on Thursday mornings led by Kathy Bailey.

One woman from another church that attends TFA said, "I can't believe tons of women aren't attending this group. It is changing my life!"

Starting in January, Thinking Faith will study an overview of the Old Testament. Register now!

-Lora Doremus, Director of Women's Ministries

One woman from another church that attends TFA said, "I can't believe tons of women aren't attending this group. It is changing my life!"

## Embrace Grace is moving to the Preschool Office!

Embrace Grace is a group for young women who find themselves pregnant and alone, providing support and guidance during this difficult time. Grace is always available for everyone who feels alone. When they complete the Embrace Grace semester,

they are invited to move on to the next class, Embrace Life, where they learn life skills and discipleship. This is a great group for any single mom. For more information, contact Terri Greer, Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries.

# Student Ministries

## Fall Retreat

Fall Retreat held a special place for me this year because Trevor Downham was there as the speaker.

It's my senior year, so most things are a little bit more important for me than they have in the past. I know my life is about to change. The time with my friends is a little more important, and events in Student Ministries have a bittersweet feeling because it is my last year as a student.

This ministry has been significant to me over the years and even more in the last two. I have developed friendships with people who I know will walk through the good and bad with me. It is also the place that has helped me to become the person I am now. The leaders and other students loved me without judgment or condemnation even when I messed up.

It was during a low time that I had the privilege to travel to South Africa with Kyle and the team. The trip changed me, and I left a part of my heart in Port Shepstone, South Africa. It was through traveling to what felt like another world that God showed me what it meant to make my faith my own. To live it out right here where I live.

Then, one of the people I love and respect the most on this planet came to visit us here at Fall Retreat. Trevor challenged us to put our focus on Christ and strive for our heart to be the same as Christ's heart. When our heart changes our thinking will change. The way we see people, the way we see the tragedy and injustice in the world, the way we see hurt, and the way we see joy will be filtered through the mindset of Christ.

These lessons are so valuable to me since I am entering college in a few months. I have to make sure that as I enter the new world of college, just as I did Africa, I must always be setting my mind on Christ so that his heart for people of this world is guiding my thoughts and actions.

I want to thank Student Ministries for everything it has done to impact my life and the rest of UBC for being such an amazing support for my family and me over the years. I love you and will miss you when I head off to school, but you will always be a significant part of who I am.  
Thank you!!

-UBC Student





# Children's Ministries

## RA Turkey Shoot

We are overwhelmingly grateful for the leadership that Russell and Beth Graves provide to our boys who participate in Royal Ambassadors. Once again, they organized and led our annual Turkey Shoot on Saturday, October 20!

There was a threat of rain, but that did not dampen the participants' enthusiasm to learn gun safety, to practice their marksmanship, and to help others.

We had 15 boys and girls participate this year with 33 in attendance including participants, family members and friends, and helpers.

The kids' entry "fee" for the Shoot was new or gently used coats to be donated to Coats for Katya, a ministry at UBC that collects coats for orphans in Ukraine (and in other locations if there are enough coats). Entrants donated a total of 23 coats!

In the Lad's Division (Pre-K thru 3rd grades)—we awarded both High Score and High Average.

In the Crusader's Division (4th thru 6th grades)—we awarded the following: High Score, High Average, Marksman First Class, and Marksman.



Winners received gift cards to Kroger to help buy Thanksgiving dinner (or anything else they worked out with their adult family members).

Thank you, Beth and Russell, for another GREAT event!

## Happy Birthday Jesus

On December 5, Girls in Action hosted our annual Happy Birthday Jesus party for preschoolers. We had approximately 25 girls and a room FULL of preschoolers, enjoying games, cookie decorating and crafts. Our girls presented the story of Christ's birth with a skit.

Each preschool family was asked to bring diapers and wipes for the Crisis Pregnancy Center.

Little did we expect, but a God Moment occurred when the items were being delivered – an employee asked our Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries, Terri Greer - how did you know we NEEDED these items? And with that question, Terri replied, “God is good to provide where there is a need!” Thanks, God!

“

*God is good to provide  
where there is a need!*

*Thanks, God!*

”



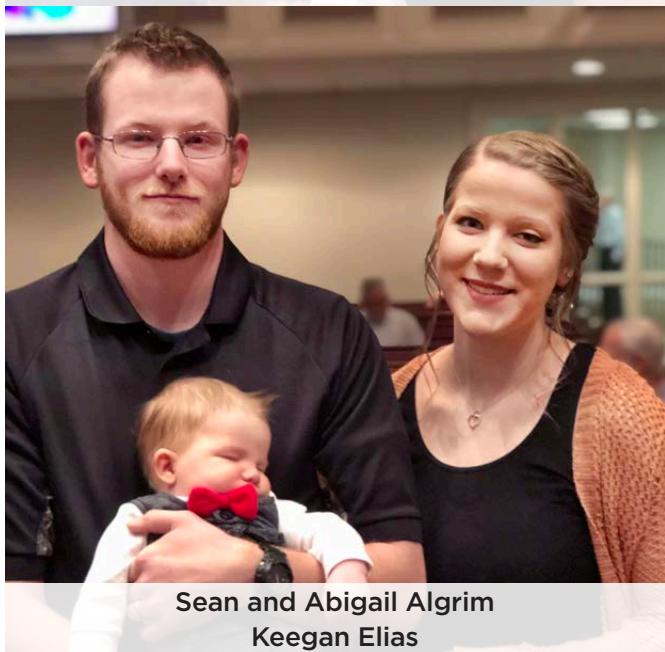
**David and Shelley Johnson**  
**Coraline Hadley and Remmie Elise**



**Chris and Elayni Kinsey**  
**Taryn Annette**



**Jonathan and Taylor Alexander**  
**Grace Charlotte**



**Sean and Abigail Algrim**  
**Keegan Elias**



**Joshua and Alexis Pulido**  
**Lucas Lee, Noah Scott, and Paxton Hayes**



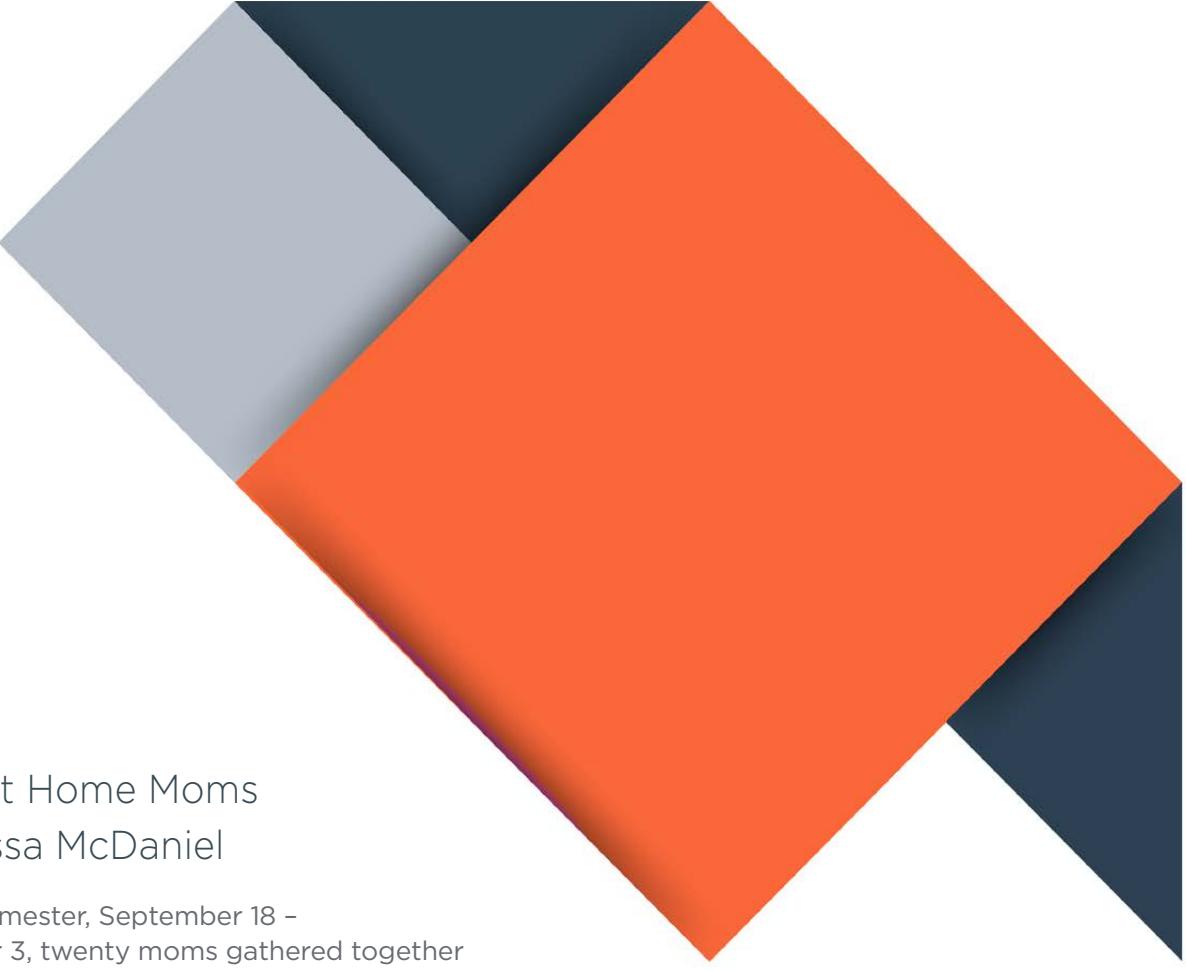
## Preschool Praise Kids Christmas Concert

Twenty preschoolers, ages 3 and 4, joined our fall semester of Praise Kids choir. Every Sunday evening, songs were learned, and sweet little voices raised to our Lord while bells jingled and sticks kept rhythm. Leaders Kim Dischler, Leslie Rucker and Michelle Tressler, eagerly prepared the children for the December 2 Christmas concert.

“

“As I sat in church this morning (Dec. 9) and heard the orchestra sing O Come Let Us Adore Him, and For Unto Us a Child is Born, and noticed them play rhythm sticks and maracas, I felt God whisper to me that what we do in preschool choir is indeed worthy,” said Leslie Rucker. “One day, our Praise Kids will be adults on that stage. We have put God’s Word in their hearts, and turned their focus to Christ during Christmas.”

”



## Right at Home Moms

by Alyssa McDaniel

The fall semester, September 18 – December 3, twenty moms gathered together every Monday morning to work through “Open Your Bible,” a study on why and how to read the Bible on a regular basis. Centralized on the theme, “The Bible is for you, and it is for right now,” the study focused on the truth of God’s Word and how women of the Truth are to approach, engage, and apply the Bible.

Each week the group learned about the Bible’s foundational basics, its importance and urgency in the lives of believers, and how to grow in one’s understanding and studying of it. The group learned how to apply various study methods to Scripture, including the chapter summary, chapter analysis, and verse-by-verse analysis methods. One member commented that at the end of the study she felt “much more comfortable reading my Bible,” while another noted that the study helped her to grow in her understanding of the urgency of reading God’s Word. Additionally, at each session, women were given an opportunity to pray for one another and grow deeper in friendship which was a highlight of the weekly gatherings.

Outside of the Monday morning studies, the women and their children were given opportunities to participate in play dates at the Houston Zoo, the Children’s Museum of Houston, and a Christmas cookie exchange.

Right at Home Moms is a family ministry of UBC designed to support mothers of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are modifying their work schedule or leaving the workplace to stay home and raise their children. Our goal is to help new moms find practical Bible study, genuine encouragement, time to refresh their spirit, and a network of Godly friends in a similar phase of life. We believe that motherhood is the hardest but most fulfilling work you’ll ever find!

# Weekday Ministries

## Donuts for Dads & Muffins for Moms

On Thursday, October 25, we invited our Weekday Ministry dads, grandpas, and uncles to join us for a fun morning of fellowship. The chapel was full of smiling faces enjoying donuts and time together, and some singing to start the day off right.

Moms, grandmothers, and aunts joined us on Thursday, November 8, for our annual Muffins for Moms. All had a great time.

We love celebrating our Weekday families and enjoying time together.



Moms

## Preschoolers on Mission

September found us collecting money for school supplies for the Children's Alliance in Zambia. \$145 was raised and given to this great cause. Our very own music teacher, Laura Ozinga, was able to deliver the money to Zambia when she went on a mission trip at the end of September.

In October, the preschoolers showed their appreciation to the pastors here at UBC. Each class made a thank you sign and presented it to their designated pastor. The children enjoyed presenting their class art and spending some time with them.

Our preschoolers collected 80 welcome boxes filled with toys, toiletries, and necessities for children checking into The Bridge Shelter. On Thursday, November 15, the children gathered the boxes and had a praise and prayer time around them. Songs of love to God were sung, and the children prayed over the boxes and for the children who would receive them. We had a chapel lesson about thankfulness and being the hands and feet of Christ.

It was a great way to begin the holiday season!





## Weekday Christmas Program

What better way to celebrate Christmas than listening to 115 preschoolers tell the story of the first Christmas! Over 250 people came to share in this remarkable time at the annual UBC Weekday Christmas Program. Dr. Laufer narrated the Christmas story as the children sang and portrayed the story. It was a special time to hear the voices of our Weekday kids sing of this wondrous story.



## Glad Tidings

Glad Tidings was a morning of great rejoicing as we gathered to sing the songs of the season, giving voice to the wonder that surrounds the story of the birth of Christ.

It was one of the most ambitious programs and worship services that I've led in the two years that I've been at UBC. Big thank you to the choir and orchestra for their tireless efforts, their dedication to excellence, and their call to the ministry of music at UBC. I also want to thank the congregation for their prayerful support.

--Guy



We are so blessed to have all the talent we have in our choir and orchestra. It was such a worshipful experience. Thank you, choir, and thanks to Guy for his awesome leadership. Guy is the BEST interim Worship Leader we could have ever been blessed to have.

It is a privilege to sing such beautiful music with such awesome people. I've been in this choir for 20+ years now and it's still such a morning of worship for the choir members to do this. I think we probably get more out of it than you do. But thanks anyways....we love singing.

## Lessons and Carols

A wonderful experience and a wonderful expression of our faith in Jesus Christ through the reading of scripture and the singing of carols.

Thank you to the Chamber Singers and the Chamber Orchestra for their music. Thank you to Bob Wall, Louanne Bussey, and Kay Carpenter for their leadership in the bells and the orchestra.

-Guy



### The History of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The story of the Festival of Lessons and Carols is one which transcends time and distance. UBC is thousands of miles away from King's College, Cambridge England, where this service was created in 1918, and where it has been performed for the past 100 years.

The original service was created by the new Dean of King's College, Eric Milner-White, who was trying to create an innovative, imaginative style of worship. After a slight rearrangement in the order of the nine lessons, the scriptures and the prayers have remained unchanged.

The music has expanded as new carols and anthems have been written, providing a constantly renewed vitality with each Christmas Season. Almost immediately, other churches began using the format of the nine lessons and carols in their own Christmas services. The BBC broadcasts the service live from King's every Christmas Eve.



## Glory to the King

Our sixth annual Glory to the King Christmas service was spectacular! We loved having the opportunity to worship with our entire church family and have been so encouraged by all the response. People have shared many stories of how God was moving in their hearts. We absolutely loved having Jaime Jorge be a part of our Christmas service. We really look forward to doing more with Jaime in the future. Ben is excited to be recording on Jaime's upcoming album release!

Everything from the stage to all the prep work for the songs made for a worshipful environment. The church family could come together to celebrate our Savior and worship him. Glory to the King is always a highlight during our Advent season.





## Echoes of Grace

We are very excited about our upcoming music and devotional album at the beginning of the new year! We have been working really hard on this instrumental album. We are grateful for all those who have contributed in writing the devotionals for the album. Our very own Steve Laufer, Rick Carpenter, Aaron Glenn, and Ben Sandstrom have featured devotionals on the album along with other worship leaders. We are really excited for this to be a resource to be available to the church as a spiritual formation tool. We titled the album Echoes of Grace because all the songs are older hymns reimagined into an instrumental meditational musical format that will coincide with each devotional. We pray this will be life giving for you, your friends, and your family not just this year, but for years to come.

## FCA: Be an Example

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) hosts youth rallies all around the United States. On October 11, the Houston-South FCA hosted a Fields of Faith rally at Freedom Field (Alvin ISD) in Rosharon, Texas. UBC's contemporary worship band and students led worship for the rally.

There were 300 in attendance with 30 new commitments and 50 commitments to get into the Word daily. The students, coaches, parents, and other attendees were challenged to be an example, be authentic, and be true to God's calling.

Ben Sandstrom, UBC's contemporary worship pastor, shared, "We love having a ministry partnership with FCA and always enjoy the opportunity to serve alongside them. It's incredible to see all that God does in the lives of these students and the impact it has on all of us."

One of the unique things that happened this year was an ongoing conversation with the groundskeeper at the stadium. The band was able to share stories, laugh together and pray with him. Even in the midst of coming to an event and having a goal, it's important to be interruptible and find moments like this.



# Attendance Report

WORSHIP AVERAGES			
	9:30	11:00	Totals
Sept-Dec 2017	574	354	928
Sept-Dec 2018	477	361	838

ADULT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2017	855	341
Sept-Dec 2018	859	352

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS (BIRTH-PREK-4)		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2017	406	185
Sept-Dec 2018	281	167

\*Note: Kindergarten was moved from Preschool Ministries to the Children's Ministries in Aug 2018

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS (K-5TH GRADE)		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2017	373	168
Sept-Dec 2018	465	173

STUDENT MINISTRY ATTENDANCE NUMBERS		
	Enrolled	Average Attended
Sept-Dec 2017	444	164
Sept-Dec 2018	459	166

PRESCHOOL AVG. SEPT-DEC 2018	
Happy Birthday Jesus Party	100+
Praise Kids	20
Praise Kids Choir Concert	125
Mission Friends	9
Right At Home Moms Ministry	21
Fall Festival	Rain

\*Rained out- handed out 722 bags of candy

CHILDREN'S AVG. SEPT-DEC 2018	
Chorus Kids	55
Handbells	17
Bible Blast/Drill	29
Royal Ambassadors	32
Girls in Action	28
RA Turkey Shoot	33
Christmas Concert	200+
Children/Students GA Happy Birthday Jesus	100+

ADULT MINISTRY AVG. SEPT-DEC 2018	
Women's Tapestry Dinner	275
College & Career Christmas Party	50+
Men's Conference	30+
Hymn Sing	130

STUDENT MINISTRY AVG. SEPT-DEC 2018	
Fall Retreat	145
IS Late Nights	20+

# Financial Report

## University Baptist Church 12 Months October 2017 to September 2018 (100%)

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
<b>Budgetary Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,844,997</b>			
Ministry Contributions	\$18,030			
Other Income	\$27,398			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,890,425</b>			
 Missions Ministry	\$384,500	\$365,000	-\$19,500	105.34%
Communications Ministry	\$103,730	\$104,000	\$270	99.74%
Serving Ministries	\$20,823	\$27,850	\$7,027	74.77%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$48,019	\$52,800	\$4,781	90.95%
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$13,314	\$23,150	\$9,836	57.51%
Adult Ministry	\$59,467	\$85,700	\$26,233	69.39%
Student Ministry	\$50,109	\$57,000	\$6,891	87.91%
Children Ministry	\$36,872	\$45,900	\$9,028	80.33%
Preschool Ministry	\$19,196	\$23,600	\$4,404	81.34%
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$736,030</b>	<b>\$785,000</b>	<b>\$48,970</b>	<b>93.76%</b>
 Administration	\$197,764	\$191,000	-\$6,764	103.54%
Personnel	\$2,099,354	\$2,189,000	\$89,646	95.90%
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$2,297,118</b>	<b>\$2,380,000</b>	<b>\$82,882</b>	<b>96.52%</b>
 Facility	\$480,080	\$485,000	\$4,920	98.99%
Capital Improvements	\$48,829	\$0	(\$48,829)	
<b>Total Facility &amp; CP &amp; Funding</b>	<b>\$528,909</b>	<b>\$485,000</b>	<b>-\$43,909</b>	<b>109.05%</b>
 <b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,562,056</b>	<b>\$3,650,000</b>	<b>\$87,944</b>	<b>97.59%</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$328,369</b>			
 Designated Funds	Begin	Activity	End	
Designated Funds	\$513,748	\$8,159	\$521,906	
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Unrestricted Funds			\$455,739	
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>			<b>\$1,477,646</b>	
 <b>Current Other Assets (a)</b>				<b>\$4,209</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				<b>\$127,371</b>
<b>Mortgage</b>				<b>\$0</b>

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes:

a) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable and any prepaid expenses.

**University Baptist Church**  
**3 Months October 2018 to December 2018 (25%)**

	Actual	Annual Budget	Remaining	% of Annual Budget Spent
<b>Budgetary Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,039,925</b>			
Ministry Contributions	\$5,238			
Other Income	\$3,317			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,048,480</b>			
 Missions Ministry	\$103,993	\$371,500	\$267,507	27.99%
Communications Ministry	\$16,142	\$114,000	\$97,858	14.16%
Serving Ministries	\$3,727	\$18,200	\$14,473	20.48%
Music & Worship Ministry	\$14,821	\$55,800	\$40,979	26.56%
Family Ministry	\$4,867	\$34,500	\$29,633	14.11%
Women's Ministry	\$3,720	\$11,500	\$7,780	32.34%
Adult Ministry	\$13,044	\$69,200	\$56,156	18.85%
Student Ministry	\$5,896	\$62,000	\$56,104	9.51%
Children Ministry	\$4,890	\$49,000	\$44,110	9.98%
Preschool Ministry	\$2,405	\$23,600	\$21,195	10.19%
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$173,504</b>	<b>\$809,300</b>	<b>\$635,796</b>	<b>21.44%</b>
 Administration	\$58,053	\$219,700	\$161,647	26.42%
Personnel	\$451,304	\$2,196,000	\$1,744,696	20.55%
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$509,357</b>	<b>\$2,415,700</b>	<b>\$1,906,343</b>	<b>21.09%</b>
 Facility	\$118,281	\$490,000	\$371,719	24.14%
Capital Improvements	\$31,480	\$0	(\$31,480)	
<b>Total Facility &amp; CP &amp; Funding</b>	<b>\$149,761</b>	<b>\$490,000</b>	<b>\$340,239</b>	<b>30.56%</b>
 <b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$832,622</b>	<b>\$3,715,000</b>	<b>\$2,882,378</b>	<b>22.41%</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$215,858</b>			
 		Begin	Activity	End
Designated Funds	\$521,906	\$49,628	\$571,535	
Prior Year Budget Funds	\$313,369	\$0	\$313,369	
Reserve Funds	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	
Unrestricted Funds			\$264,645	
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>			<b>\$1,649,548</b>	
 Current Other Assets (a)			\$1,201	
Current Liabilities			\$60,238	
Mortgage			\$0	

Mike Herman, Treasurer

Footnotes:

a) Current Other Assets is Weekday Ministry Receivable and any prepaid expenses.

# Membership Report

## UBC Membership Additions September–December 2018

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY BAPTISM

- Taylor Blazine
- Kelsi McDonald
- Rachel Reyna
- Dalton Rogers
- Kylie Smith

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER

- Jay R. Brubaker
- Kathleen S. Brubaker
- Debbie Henson
- Alan Hughes
- Diane Hughes
- Josh Robinson
- Betty Wilson
- Robert (Bob) Wilson
- Kerri D. Zick

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY STATEMENT

- Chris Kinsey
- Elayni S. Kinsey

## UBC Membership Deletions September–December 2018

### MEMBERS LETTERED OUT

- Katie Kinsey Adams
- Bruce Bristow
- Peggy Bristow
- Kathy Carnes
- Elizabeth Conner
- Bob Needham
- Joan Needham

### MEMBERS BY ERASURE

- Lisa Bradbury Torrealba

### BY DEATH

- Richard Bingham
- Harold Hill
- Bill Platt

# Administrative Report

## Focus Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2018

The Focus Meeting was held in the Chapel at University Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday September 30, 2018. Dr. Steven Laufer, Senior Pastor called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. There were 43 people in attendance.

The Senior Pastor's Report is on page 4 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Executive Director's Report is on page 5 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018

Facility Updates are on page 6 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Serving Ministries Report is on pages 7 - 15 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Faith @ Home Ministries Report is on page 16 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Care Ministries Report is on page 17 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Adult Ministries Report is on pages 18 - 19 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Women's Ministries Report is on pages 19 - 21 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Student Ministries Report is on pages 22 - 28 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Children's Ministries Report is on pages 29 - 36 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Preschool Ministries Report is on pages 36 - 43 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Weekday Ministries Report is on pages 44 - 45 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Worship Ministries Report is on page 46 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Attendance Report for Weekend Bible Study and Worship are found on page 47 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

The Financial Report is on page 48 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018.

A full report of the membership changes during the period May - August are on page 49 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018. During that period, 16 were received by baptism; 12 by letter; and 3 by statement.

### Requests for letters

- Debbie Cave
- John Cave
- Jackie Freeman
- Roy Graves

### By Erasure

- Kevin Cohn
- Linda Leonard
- Ray Leonard
- Joshua Wardlaw
- Laura Wardlaw
- Travis Wardlaw

### By Death

- Greg Blackwell
- Jerald Burks
- Roy Cone
- Bill Nunnery, Jr.

The changes in membership were reviewed and the requests for letters were approved by voice vote after a motion by Laura Vincent and a second by David Henry. A prayer was offered for those leaving, that they would be productive in their new churches and for new members who had recently joined UBC by Lee Whitlock.

The minutes of the May 27, 2018 Focus Meeting are on pages 50 - 51 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018. The minutes were approved as written by voice vote after a motion by Debs Cofer and a second by Cory Thompson.

*Focus Meeting Minutes cont.*

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget on page 52 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018 was presented by a recommendation by the Executive Council. A second motion was given by Wayne Hale. The budget was approved by voice vote. A question meeting was held on September 23, 2018 for questions that people might have about the budget.

The UBC Foundation Report is on pages 53 – 57 of the Book of Reports dated September 30, 2018. Candace Griffithe gave a financial report of the UBC Foundation.

The Nominating Committee recommendations for the following members to serve three-year positions beginning in 2019 are as follows:

**Executive Council**

- Robbie Kimbrough
- Skip Inbody

**Trustees**

- Steve Raska
- James Hamon
- Keith Moore
- Barbara Phillips (filling 1 year position left due to person moving)

**UBC Foundation**

- Mary Ann Shallberg
- Shawn Broddle
- Alan Wylie

Since this is a recommendation from the Nominating Committee a motion is not needed but a second by Debbie Tupin was given. These recommendations were approved by a voice vote.

Dr. Laufer asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was given by Laura Vincent and a second by Stuart Skeeter.

Dr. Laufer asked Rusty Stewart to close the meeting with a prayer.

Virginia Thomas  
Church Secretary

# UBC Foundation Reports

## FINANCIALS

2018 was a great year for the Foundation! It could not have been so successful for God's Kingdom without the generous support of UBC members in donating, serving and participating in the events listed in this report.

The 2018 changes in the stock market affected our giving budget for 2019. The Foundation will still be able to give the scholarships and fund ministries. Our expectation is that these gifts will be in the range of \$20,000. This is a perfect example of why the Foundation needs to build its cash base through donor giving in addition to event income. Starting a planned giving program will assist us in building the endowment principal to continue giving despite market downturns.

Currently, the Foundation gives 70% of all unspecified income (from investments and event proceeds) to scholarships and ministries, and 30% is reinvested back into the endowment to increase the principal.

A donor may direct their gift to a specific fund, such as:

- Timothy Fund
- Bob Wall Fund
- Jerry and Carol O'Neal Fund
- General Fund

For example, a gift that is directed to support the Jerry and Carol O'Neal Fund for student scholarships, 100% of the gift will be applied for scholarships. With this being said, it is important to note the Jerry and Carol O'Neal Scholarship Fund has been depleted. Specific donations are welcome to support this scholarship in the future. The UBC Foundation does have funds, apart from the O'Neal Fund, to continue to give student scholarships for the future.

Despite the downturn, the UBC Foundation can report:

- \$16,000 to student scholarships for high school seniors and two seminary students;
- \$16,300 to support various UBC ministries;
- \$21,000 raised by the Golf Tournament, a record amount netted;
- \$2,805 raised in the Spring and Fall Dine-Out-to-Donate events;
- \$276,192 endowment held by the Foundation as of 1/01/19.

## CRESCENDO

The UBCF planned giving website is now up and running thanks to our partners at Crescendo who helped create it for us. You may access it by going to [www.ubcfoundationlegacy.org](http://www.ubcfoundationlegacy.org). The website gives pertinent information of how to give to the Foundation through your estate plans. Please visit the site and let us know what you think by contacting us at [ubcfoundation@ubc.org](mailto:ubcfoundation@ubc.org).



### Dine Out to Donate

Thanks goes to the following restaurants which participated in the UBC Foundation's Fall event which raised \$891:

Grazia

BJ's

Texas Roadhouse

Iguana Ranas Cantina (Seabrook)

Raising Cane's (League City)

## Golf Tournament

The UBC Foundation Golf Tournament was held on November 5 and netted **\$21,000**, a record amount. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and participants for making the event so successful.

### MAJOR SPONSORS

AAA Blast-Cote  
David B. Turrentine Independent Insurance Agency  
Gas and Supply Texas, Inc  
Gay Family Auto Buick GM Kia  
Gulfex Holdings, LLC  
Legend Lending - Cory Thompson  
MarineMax Houston  
Mitch Foster Cosmetic and Laser Dentistry  
Norman Frede Chevrolet  
Performance Insulation Contractors, Inc.  
Samurai Steakhouse and Sushi Bar  
Savannah Café & Bakery  
Texas Stress, Inc.  
TFR Wealth Management, LP  
The BRK Foundation  
The Cofer Family  
The Briggs Family  
The Prochazka Family  
Waldron & Schneider, LLP - Richard Simmons

### TOURNAMENT AND HOLE SPONSORS

American Alloy Steel  
American Gear and Supply  
Ann Hammond  
Atlas Hose & Gasket Co, LLC  
Bob and Marjo Richmond  
Brynda McCormick  
Cecil and Judie Ferguson  
Deborah L. Williams, CFP  
Deborah L. Williams, CFP  
Deep South Crane & Rigging LLC  
Don and Dianne Fanning  
Dr. Bruce & Beverly Peterson  
EZ-Line Pipe Support Co., LLC  
Golden Rule A/C & Heating  
Griffin Trade Group, LP  
Haynes Striping  
Imperastaff  
Jackrabbit Steel Products, Inc.  
Law Offices of Brent Perry  
Lisa Richardson, DDS  
Mary Ann Shallberg In Honor of Bill Shallberg  
Matt & Kelly Dean  
Michael & Mary Herman  
North Shore Steel Supply  
Peters Dental Associates  
Richard Dvorak  
Ryerson Metal Processing & Distribution  
Sharon Priest  
Standard Fasteners - Allstate Supply  
Stender Financial  
The Boardroom Suite  
The David Henry Family  
The Grindstaff Family  
UBF of Houston Foundation  
Uni-Form Components Co.

*Thank you for your continued support of the UBC Foundation.  
We look forward to seeing what 2019 will bring.*



## UBC Foundation Financial Review

Period Ending: **12/31/18****Review of Cash and Investments****12/31/18**

Checking	\$ 41,815.99
Investments	\$ 233,726.25
Other Cash - UBC Receivable	\$ 650.00
Total	\$ 276,192.24

\$650.00 Donations accepted by UBC

**Investment Earnings Review****Investment Income** **Year to Date**

Realized	\$ 5,780.07
Unrealized	\$ (11,313.85)

Market losses

**Review Operating Activity****Year to Date**

Unrestricted Contributions	\$ 1,212.50
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**Expenditures**

Non Scholarship Grants	\$ (13,800.00)
Scholarships	\$ (14,000.00)
Office Expenses	\$ (438.05)
Marketing	\$ (3,500.00)
Total	\$ (31,738.05)

Crescendo Contract

**Fund Raising Activity Review****Event Summary****Fall results**

<u>Nov 2018 Dine Out Events</u>		
Donations	\$ 20.00	\$ 59.54
Income	\$ 2,885.67	\$ 20.00
Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 173.63
Total	\$ 2,905.67	\$ 250.00
		\$ 100.00
		\$ 425.00
		canes
		grazias

**Event Summary****Golf Tournament 2018**

Donations	\$ 24,651.25	\$2600 from Prior year tournament
Income	\$ 7,505.90	
Expenditures	\$ (8,280.20)	
Total	\$ 23,876.95	

**Review of Current Fund Balances**

Foundation Board Fund	\$ 180,764.52
Jerry O'Neal Christian Leadership Fund	\$ -
International Missions Fund	\$ 5,269.13
Bob Wall Fund Endowment	\$ 5,840.00
Bob Wall Fund	\$ 8,148.72
Higher Learning Scholarship Fund	\$ 53,600.00
Timothy Fund Endowment	\$ 20,000.00
Timothy Fund	\$ 2,569.87
Total	\$ 276,192.24



**UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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