

Creek 2018-2019 Budget Letter

June 2018

Dear Creek Church Family:

SEE GOD, SEE PEOPLE, GROW PEOPLE

God is faithful! Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working," John 5:17. As God's local church body, we are always looking to see God, worship him, and join with him in his creative and redemptive work.

Whether looking back, living in the moment, or leaning into what lies ahead, I am grateful to call the Creek my church home. I hope you feel the same way. Why? Because the Creek is seeking, changing, learning and growing!

As I write this letter, I reflected back on highlights of what we saw God do this past year:

- Last summer, we were in the midst of a pastoral search process. Pastor Wayne served as our interim pastor and through wisdom and grace shepherded our church during a transitional season.
- In September, Pastor Ted said yes to our call to come and serve as our Lead Pastor. Shortly thereafter, Ted, Christina, Amelia and Sophie formally arrived to Pleasant Hill - our next season with the Creek's second permanent lead pastor commenced in November.
- Connection Groups launched this spring - providing opportunity for life-giving, midweek gathering focused on sermon themes, encouragement and prayer.
- A growing ministry of prayer on Sunday mornings and amongst leadership.
- Twelve Creek men attended the PSWC Men's Retreat to grow in faith and friendship
- Relationships were built through Ice Cream with Pastor Ted, and lunches at Dos Coyotes
- Hundreds of people were blessed through our nativity craft at Light Up the Night.
- CreeKids led the whole church in telling the Christmas story
- Various events raised funds for New Day for Children, who restore those rescued from human trafficking.
- The Youth spent Saturdays serving food, playing games and connecting with children cared for by Points of Light in Oakland.
- Several people celebrated new life in Christ through the sacrament of Baptism.
- Financial commitments are to be celebrated - Thanks to your generosity, through April of this year, giving exceeded expenses by more than \$10,000.

As we prepare our hearts, hands and minds for the coming year, check out some of the ways we can share life, love, truth and grace:

- Wednesdays in June - Picnic in the Park
- July - Summer Connection Groups
- August 4-11 - Rancho de Sus Niños Youth Mission Trip
- August 12 - dinner and live theater event @ Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat
- October 5-7 - PSWC Women's Retreat @ Mission Springs
- September - November - Fall Connection Groups
- October 19-21 - All Creek Church Retreat
- October 28 - Trunk or Treat
- November 28 - Light Up the Night

I trust you are excited and hopeful for what lies ahead. Speaking of which....

Our Creek Church operates within a set of approved by-laws. As a Covenant Church, all critical decisions rest with you - our church members. Members exercised one of those privileges this past fall with the calling of our Pastor Ted. Creek members are required in the bylaws to approve our spending plan - structured to invest in God's work within our Church and partner with Him in reaching our neighbors - both local and global.

Herein the Leadership Team is presenting our proposed 2018-2019 annual budget. It has been structured into several categories that we believe embody the critical components of a healthy and vibrant church life.

- *Pastor and staff* - The spiritual leadership of the Creek comes from our Senior Pastor, who is regularly involved in supporting lay leadership who serve in our ministries. Included in this section are Samantha and Laura, who put their hearts into growing our children into learning more about Jesus. Pam McGrath has blessed the Creek for many years, as she continues to provide the financial and administrative support.
- *Congregational Life*: Involves the care and feeding of the Creek family, areas include benevolence, annual church retreat, ministry expenses and volunteer appreciation.
- *Worship*: the bulk of these outflows are tied to the place of worship - the rental of facilities at SDA; other allocations are made for guest musicians and speakers along with minor equipment needs that are integral to our Sunday morning gatherings.
- *Local, Global and Covenant Missions*: As followers of Christ, we endeavor to live what God's words teaches us about giving lavishly. Specifically, we have again committed to tithing of at least 10% of the income/gifts we receive. This year we are committed to 10% for the Evangelical Covenant Church and Pacific Southwest Conference; these denominational agencies are involved in serving globally, developing leaders, church planting and revitalization, making and deepening disciples; loving mercy and doing justice. Beyond this 10% commitment, we have allocated resource for local events and outreach that will reach the Pleasant Hill community, plus have set aside funds to support the Creek's international missional partners.

- *Children and Youth Ministries:* Responding to God's call to care for and raise up our children and youth in the faith, we set aside these resources for materials and experiences that compliment the teaching of our paid and lay leadership staff.
- *Administrative Support:* Like all formally structured organizations, nominal expenses occur for office supplies, communication and incidental needs.

The Leadership Team is hosting a Creek conversation about our church goals and action along with the proposed budget for the coming year on Sunday, June 17, following the worship service. This will be your opportunity to hear more about our plans for the coming year and address questions you may have about our Creek Church plans and the 2018-2019 proposed budget.

A formal congregational meeting is scheduled for June 24, where members will be asked to approve the 2018-2019 annual budget. Please make time to attend this important meeting - membership votes really matter. Reminder- Membership was formerly known as partnership.

The Psalmist writes, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Christians are called to steward God-given resources with wisdom and generosity. As a church and Leadership Team then, we want to always be asking the questions: "To the best of our abilities, are we using these resources to the glory of God?" And also, "Is God calling us to release what is good in order to pursue what is best?" And if ever--or when ever--we discern a necessary change, we want to follow the Biblical example and simultaneously celebrate all the ways that God worked in the past, and anticipate all that God will do in the future.

Would you pray with me? Pray for wisdom, grace, and unity as we discern God's voice throughout this process.

I am privileged to be with you on this journey of serving, praying, acting - all in faith. The Creek is comprised of many different people who call Jesus their Lord. Thanks for helping your leaders see God and grow in new and surprising ways over this past year. The Leadership Team are faithful stewards of the resources you have generously and sacrificially given over these many years. Know that we truly appreciate the trust you place in us. In this year ahead, we will again pray for wise counsel and discernment as we come together with all of you to further God's Kingdom work through the Creek.

God is good, all the time!

Ken, on behalf of the Leadership Team