

## Dear Church Family,

As we launch into 2017, we have so much to be thankful for over this past year. In case you missed the "State of the Church" address, let me recap a few of the most significant highlights of 2016:

- 16% growth in our weekend worship service attendance, with the addition of 7:45am service
- 11:1 member to baptism ratio (total of 69 baptisms)
- 17% growth in general receipts to the church's operating budget
- Approximately 43% of our church membership is volunteering in ministry
- Completion of Phases 1 & 2 of Building for the Journey
- Members from Easthaven served in International Missions (India, Czech Republic, Cambodia, Germany, Turkey, China, Nepal, Uganda, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Jordan)
- Members from EBC served in North American Missions (Heart Butte with four total trips, Spokane, Lake Tahoe, Indianapolis, Portland, New York City to explore an outreach to Jews)
- Launch of Summit Life Church, Whitefish with an average attendance of 53 in the first four months
- Church Plant team on field in Columbia Falls
- 19% growth in camper days at TLC Retreat with many improvements

Every so often you just have one of those years when the blessings and grace of God are almost overwhelming. This has certainly been one of those years. The goodness of God is evidenced everywhere and now we are responsible to steward even more for His Kingdom. So what are we striving to accomplish in 2017? Even more!

- Greater discipleship emphasis on living fruitful lives for our Savior
- More local outreach projects and opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name
- Gateway Church Plant in Columbia Falls aiming to launch Fall 2017
- Glacier Bible College capital fundraising and campus development launch
- Phase 3 of Building for the Journey capital fundraising
- Continued growth and development of TLC Retreat

And on a personal note, it is certainly worth noting that our four most-tenured pastors have 65 years of ministry service between us here at Easthaven. I do not know of another church with that kind of consistency and longevity of service together. It is my great privilege to serve with everyone on our staff. We are a blessed congregation to be led by this team. As Vicki and I celebrate 25 years of serving here, we are so humbled and grateful for the incredible gift of your love, trust, and prayers as we live and minister alongside you as family. We truly love you and thank God for you daily!

I pray to our Father that we never tire of the joy of being part of the body of Christ where the activity of the Spirit is so very obvious. To Him alone be all glory, honor, and praise!

Humbled and honored to serve Jesus with you!  
Pastor Daniel <><

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# 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## PASTOR DANIEL AND VICKI'S JOURNEY

- Dec 1 1991** The first Sunday in December, Daniel became the new Pastor of a Southern Baptist Mission that had started in 1963. There were 90 people in attendance. Having just completed seminary in Texas, this was Pastor Daniel's first pastorate.
- 1993** Built the North Valley Baptist Church in Columbia Falls. This was the first of two church building programs for new church plants, the other was in Kila. In the course of his years as pastor at Easthaven, planting churches in unreached areas has been Daniel's passion and vision.
- Hope Pregnancy Ministries started at Easthaven with Daniel and three ladies: Twyla Klundt, Trish Goyer, and Kathy Keller. It has substantially grown, where it has a Board of Directors now. The Director, Michelle Reimer, calls Daniel the 'grandfather' of Hope Pregnancy babies. In the year of 2016, over 26 babies were born to see their potential. There are no longer abortions on demand in the Flathead Valley.
- 1997** Daniel William born July 1, 1997.
- 1999** Adrianna born May 26, 1999. Pastor Joey Gardner hired. Attendance up to 272.
- 2001** Voted to relocate and bought 10 acres on Whitefish Stage.
- 2004** With the church attendance at 400, the present church building began construction with 800 volunteers over the next 16 months. Pastor Matt Fitzwater hired.
- 2005** Moved into the new building.
- 2006** Pastor Andy McPeak hired.
- 2007** Saturday evening service (e3) added.
- 2011** The Emancipation Campaign was started to pay off the remaining church debt. By December 2014, the \$1.3 million was paid during an economic downturn in the valley. Pastor Frank Shelt hired.
- 2012** Pastor Dean Landis hired. Thompson Lakes Christian Retreat returned to Easthaven management.
- 2014** Darren Banek hired as Director of Finance and Adult Discipleship.
- An Unreached People Group in South Asia is adopted with frequent teams going several times a year to share the Gospel and train up disciples. Over the years, Uganda, Czech Republic, and Ethiopia have had regular short term teams go each year. Five individuals and families have been sent as long term missionaries.
- 2015** Three associate staff members were hired for Middle School, High School, and College age ministries.
- Plans for Glacier Bible College start to come together.
- 2016** Attendance at 800, a third Sunday morning service is added. Phases 1 & 2 of remodeling are completed. Church plants in Whitefish with Chris Baker and Columbia Falls with Bruce Crocket and Kyle Rosas begin.

*Save the Date!* Sunday, January 29 at 6:30pm

Join us for Daniel and Vicki Lambert's 25<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration where we will *honor* and *celebrate* what the Lord has done in 25 years. The Lord has blessed Easthaven with a pastor who has served faithfully for 25 years. We will gather on January 29<sup>th</sup> to *honor* Daniel and Vicki and *celebrate* what the Lord has done. Childcare up to three years old is provided. Share a word of thanks and congratulations to the Lamberts on our Facebook event page!

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

As we usher in 2017, it's an exciting time for our 50+ Adult Ministry. Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>, a new Bible study on James will be offered every Thursday morning in the Atrium, from 10:30-11:30am. This study is unique, with several pastors including Daniel, Matt, Mike, and Frank, each taking turns teaching the class. Bring a Bible and a friend as we take a refreshing look at scripture, discovering how it is relative and applicable to our lives today. Also in 2017, we will be kicking off our new service links or circles, each offering a variety of opportunities for personal involvement, growth, and service to other members of our congregation and to the community. We will be promoting the different opportunities and ways to participate at the next 50+ luncheon on January 6<sup>th</sup>. You will also find it easier to stay informed and up to date as we kick off a newsletter called *The Easthaven Prime Time News*.

Our 50+ luncheons were a great success throughout 2016, averaging 55-70 people per month. The format for our luncheons will remain pretty much unchanged with great food, interesting guest speakers, and an excellent time for fellowship and catching up with friends. We will continue to meet the first Friday of every month beginning with lunch starting at 12:00 and ending around 1:30. Everyone is encouraged to bring along a friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbor. It is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted, learn about what the Senior Adult Ministry and our church family has to offer, as we share the love and joy of Jesus with one another.

In 2017, we also hope to host one or two retreats at the camp allowing participants the opportunity to get away and enjoy time fellowshiping with one another while also worshipping the Lord.

Lastly, in December 2017, we will be hosting a new Senior Adult Christmas Banquet. This will surely be a special event as we highlight the accomplishments of our various links, and recognize individuals for their achievements. As you can see, 2017 will be an exciting year and I am looking forward serving each of you, while serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Pastor Mike

## MEN'S MINISTRY

Men, we sometimes settle into the grooves of life, continuing forward as normal. Do you ever wonder if there is something more? A greater purpose? Why am I on earth? Do you feel stuck? These are great questions to ask and more importantly, to find the answer. Consider joining a group of men at this year's Power Weekend.

The Men's Power Weekend (retreat) is on February 10-12 at the Thompson Lakes Christian Retreat. Kevin DeVries, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, will lead us on our weekend journey to discover how God has worked in his life and to help us find purpose in our lives. Kevin will share his testimony, including many devastating trials, as he weaves the story God has been using in his life to reach countless men with stories of hope and overcoming huge obstacles. Kevin is also an explorer who spent five summers searching for Noah's Ark at nearly 17,000 feet on Mt. Ararat, Turkey. This adventure was featured in the 2015 nationwide, award-winning documentary: *Finding Noah*. You'll be fascinated and inspired by what Kevin has discovered that applies to your own life. Look for more information about signing up in the bulletin.

If you can't make the retreat, there are many discipleship opportunities at Easthaven to answer those big questions as well. Small groups, Wednesday night classes, Sunday School, and other men specific activities are going on right now. Remember, Jesus was not a passive bystander; He was an action figure. He took an active role in the lives of others and stood firm on the principles of God. I encourage you to get involved in one of the existing groups, start a new one, or contact me if you have other ideas!

Excited to be on the journey with you!

Justin McKerrow

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*Address Service Requested*

**W O R S H I P   S E R V I C E S :**  
**SATURDAYS @ 6PM (MODERN)**  
**SUNDAYS @ 7:45AM (CLASSIC) | 9AM (CLASSIC) | 11AM**



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## ATTENDANCE | GIVING RECORDS

### DECEMBER AVERAGES

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 908 | Sunday Bible Study: 79 | Nightlife: NA

### FINANCIALS *(as of November 30, 2016):*

Giving to Date: \$1,137,292 | Budget to Date: \$1,092,621 | Giving vs. Budget: \$44,671 | YTD Expenses: \$1,053,508