

## ANNUAL REPORT

### *2015 Lead Pastor's Report*

An annual report presented by the Lead Pastor to the membership of Bethel Pentecostal Church during the annual business meeting on February 16, 2016. This report includes an overview of 2015 and vision for 2016: the Welcome Process, our Financial Landscape, Reno21, Pastoral Leadership, Church Ministries, Office Management, Church Board, Ministry Highlights, and Bethel Values.

Pastor Andrew Holm, Lead Pastor

2/16/2016



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The next stage is before us. We have set the ground work, created a mission statement and started to develop a ministry that will bring us in the right direction. The direction is: to GROW together as we WORSHIP, LOVE, and SERVE. Last year the challenge was to take ownership and I have certainly seen an increase to this end. Now we need to accept the direction and move forward. *To accept the next stage of ministry will require us to follow through with what God has called us to do.*

### AS YOUR LEAD PASTOR

I know the economy is weak. I know the dollar has declined. I know people are sick. I know situations sometimes feel hopeless. While I know uncertainty is a real reality for many, I know our God is bigger and the future is always brighter when we fix our eyes on the Kingdom. We are facing a “tipping point” and I know if we collectively unite as a body of believers, we will break through to the next stage of ministry by following through with our mission. I am very proud to be leading Bethel and to be presenting my fourth report as your Lead Pastor.

This past year, we conducted one (1) funeral. While I had to reintroduce myself to Louise Sparkes every visit, our time together was rewarding. Through our visits and later passing, I grew as pastor and was able to connect with her family. Even though I wasn't sure if any of her stories were true when she shared them, her family were amazed at how much I knew of their family and of their sister who passed away young.

On a much brighter note, we had the privilege of dedicating two (2) babies in 2015: Skyler Lucas Wheeler and Julianne Dawn Russell. It is always a blessing to be able to invest in the lives of our children!

The baptism tank was also used in 2015 – we baptized nine (9) believers in water: Ricky Careen, Meghan Careen, Ethan Parsons, Toni-Lynn Parsons, Mark Stride, Michelle Stride, John Morgan, Zackary Andrews, and Bradley Taylor.



As we continue in ministry, we thank God for His faithfulness and continue to trust him for our strength.

## THE WELCOME PROCESS

Our new welcome process has been in effect for about a year now. We are receiving great feedback and, thus far, the process has led to many new families returning and establishing relationships among current Bethel members. Let me remind you that this is a work in progress and that we encourage new ideas to ensure we continuously improve the welcoming atmosphere we are trying to establish. Let me also extend a special thank you to Lisa Stride for her work with creating schedules and for all our volunteers who consistently arrive 10am Sunday morning to serve. Having faithful volunteers is vital if we want to *follow through* with our mission.

## OUR FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

Because of changes in our membership and Sunday morning attendance, we have had to re-establish our projection models for our church budget. In 2015, we projected we would receive \$125,000 in our general fund. In actuality, we received just over \$120,000. While the projection was close, in order for us to *follow through* with our mission, we must give faithfully.

Joanne Thompson, our Treasurer, will present a budget that is based upon the tithe of twenty-five (25) average households. That projected budget is based upon our mission: to GROW together as we WORSHIP, LOVE and SERVE. If we give faithfully, we will help follow through and successfully carry out our mission in the Bay Roberts area.

## RENO21

Many may be questioning the progress of Reno21. Truth be told, I, along with many in leadership, have had moments of uncertainty. When we are truly led by God's will, we are, in actuality, navigating through uncertainty. If we were certain, than it would become our will, not God's. Therefore, it is with great humility that we continue with this project until God directs us otherwise. In 2015, the board appointed a Reno21 committee comprised of Calvin Stride (Chair), Kent Chaulk, and John Mercer. In the days ahead, the committee will be in conversations with contractors and analyzing quotes. We know that God has led us, so we will *follow through*.



## PASTORAL TEAM

Since leaving as a part-time pastor, Pastor Deidre has been leading and growing our Youth Ministry (Connex). The board has acknowledged her role and leadership and has honored her with an honorarium. She is continuing to supplement her income, by offering photography services.

## CHURCH MINISTRIES

I am pleased to report that our ministries are continuing to grow and be effective.

**JOY Fellowship** (50 Plus), is now under the leadership of Pastors Glen and Enid Chaulk. I send a special thank you to Eileen Holmes for her past leadership and pray that God is able to continue to use her in whatever capacity He chooses to do so. The present challenge is to *follow through* with the mission at hand and bring this important ministry to the next level. Pray for the Chaulks as they bring effective leadership.



**Agape** (Ladies Night Out), under the leadership of Shelley Chaulk, is a growing and effective women's ministry in the community. When a ministry is concerned about our mission, including the reaching out to the community and allowing women to belong, we can be assured that God is doing something great among our women. I am very excited to see how this ministry grows in 2016 and how our women will press on and *follow through* with our mission. Please continue to pray as Shelley brings leadership to this ministry.



**Thingamajig** continues to be a work in progress. I am pleased to announce that the ministry is continuing and developing. For the interim, I have taken on the responsibility of the ministry, however, both Kristen Organ and Sharon Taylor have brought vital support in making sure Thingamajig is moving forward. I thank them for their continued faithful support. I also extend a special thank you to both Shelley Chaulk and Tiffany Morgan for their past leadership as they move on with their present endeavors. The key for 2016 will be receiving faithful support from our church families, as they faithfully invite friends. Thingamajig is an outreach



and relationship building ministry, however, will not be successful if we are unable to *follow through* with the mission.

**Connex**, led by Pastor Deidre, is finally off the ground!

This is an exciting and growing ministry that is naturally welcoming our church teenagers and sometimes even outside friends. About a dozen of them meet bi-weekly, not including volunteers and leaders. I would like to say a thank you to all of our parents and youth volunteers, a special thank you to Vaden Short for taking on a mentorship role with our youth, and continued appreciation for Pastor Deidre as she leads the group forward. As our teenagers navigate their teenage years, they will need your support and prayer. Please pray as they find ways to *follow through* with our mission.



**BeTweens**, led by Lisa Stride and Shelley Chaulk, has been a great stepping stone between our kid's ministries and Connex youth. I am very grateful for this ministry and pray that the new class starting in September 2016 will continue to be as successful as previous classes.



**Sunday School**, led by Melanie Russell, is gaining some steam. Recruiting teachers continues to be a challenge, however, we are receiving reports that children are really enjoying the discipleship and children's choir. Please pray for Melanie and her team as they continue to provide this ministry for our children.

**Men's Ministry**, led by "Kenny" (that is Kent and Tony), was not off the ground in 2015; however, it is in full swing for 2016. Please pray for this ministry as it takes on new life and begins to embrace our mission.

**Tech Team**, led by Derek Mercer, is running with teams for the first time since we arrived in 2012. This is very exciting as many are learning how to serve and participate in our services. Derek has done a great job in coordinating and encouraging others to participate. Please pray for him as he continues to bring leadership to this team.

## OFFICE MANAGEMENT

Lisa Stride continues to serve as our Church Administrator and has worked diligently to ensure proper oversight is seen in the areas of book keeping, bulletin



preparation and administrative duties on a part-time basis. I am very grateful for her hard work and would not be able to lead effectively without her.

Lori Short has been our custodian for 2015. Between her and Vaden, our building is cleaned and cared for every week. We appreciate their hard work behind the scenes as we continue to carry out our mission. Please extend the proper curtesy to them and say thank you.

## CHURCH BOARD

I am always proud to say, “I have the privilege to lead with the best church board in the fellowship.” In 2015 our board included seven (7) faithful members:

1. Vera Menchenton (Secretary);
2. Joanne Thompson (Treasure);
3. Kent Chaulk;
4. Cyril Morgan;
5. John Morgan;
6. Sandra Morgan; and,
7. Lori Short.

As the church board continues to help lead this assembly, please keep them on your prayer lists. While there is much wisdom among them, it is only the supernatural wisdom, granted through the Spirit, which will help us *follow through* with our mission.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few 2015 highlights I'd like to share:

### Sunday Night Services

Discipleship might be weak among our fellowship, but many members of our congregation are growing in their faith each week. Our Sunday Night services are how we are making this a reality.

You may think that by studying and discussing we are not conducting a service. By definition, however, the word service means “an act of helpful activity.”<sup>1</sup> In our Christian setting, that helpful activity is not directed to ourselves, but to God. In other words, by gathering for a service, we are in effect doing things together that

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<sup>1</sup> “service”, dictionary.com, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/service>.





strengthens our connection with our heavenly father. In the morning, we worship, share in testimonies and are inspired by God's Word. In the evening, we gather to practically respond to that Word. 2015 has been a growing success, but I always desire more to be engaged in this discipleship service.

Moving forward we are trying a new model. We will be connecting our Sunday morning series with our Sunday night study. In effect, we will allow the Spirit to inspire the Word in the morning service and discuss the challenge and inspiration in the night service. I am very excited to see how God blesses the risk we are willing take as we *follow through* with our mission.

#### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a great way to love and serve in our community and around the world. 2015 was our second year for this ministry and the future looks bright. From 2013 to 2015, we collected an additional 400 shoeboxes each year, giving annual totals of 1,200, 1,600 and 2,000 respectively! As we plan for the next collection season, I believe our "*following through*" can propel this ministry to collect 2400 in 2016!



#### Halloween Ministry

October 31 has traditionally been a time when Christians hide away. While we continue to receive some traditional negative comments, this ministry continues to push the gospel into a dark night and reclaim Halloween for Jesus! In 2015, we gave out over 200 bags of candy! It is truly a blessing to see so many get involved with this ministry and serve in ways that are truly making a difference. As we plan for 2016, we are looking to take this ministry to a new level and it will require us to take a risk. Will you join me in *following though*?



### Communion Service

On November 15, 2015 we took a risk and tried a unique communion service. We ate together, shared in communion, experienced testimonies, and prayed for the sick. The sense of unity was beyond anything I could ever imagined. I thank everyone for their support and pray for those who have not yet allowed this success to impact their thinking about the church community. I look forward to our next special communion service. If you haven't already, you can read more about this service by reading two (2) of my blog posts ("5 Reasons Why Our Church Is Eating Together" and "6 Lessons from Eating Together Sunday Morning").<sup>2</sup>



### Give Christmas

We knew there was a need and a desire to help, so we started a new project. The board knew of two families with specific needs and we set a goal of \$1,300. After donations were received, we collected over \$2,000! But it is not just about the numbers. Because of this increase in giving, we were able to help an additional family during the Christmas season. I am very pleased to tell you that all families were extremely grateful. All who gave to this project should be blessed to know that you help give Christmas to those who needed some hope. This is how we begin to *follow through* with our mission.

### BETHEL VALUES

In 2016, we will be establishing our Values as an assembly. We may know many of them already, but the goal is to make sure we all can agree on what those values are. With the value cards collected in September 2015, during "Our Mission" series, the board will be reviewing and arranging our Bethel Values. Pray for wisdom as we *follow through* with our mission.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://andrewholm.com/eating-together-sunday-morning>  
<http://andrewholm.com/lessons-from-eating-together>





## APPRECIATION

As always, I'd like to take the time to thank those who make my responsibility a whole lot easier.

To Deidre, my wife, Rae, my daughter, and of course Batman, our dog, thank you for giving me space and understanding when necessary, and help whenever possible. Family is where leadership and passion begin and their importance in my life is vital to the success of our ministry.

To Vera, Joanne and Church Board, thank you for being committed to the leadership role God has called you in, for sharing your wisdom, and for listening to God's voice.

To both Lisa and Lori, our church staff, thank you for putting your all into our assembly. Your work does not go unnoticed and your humble attitude is greatly appreciated.

To all the volunteers of this assembly, thank you for serving. You have the power of first impressions, and you are the Church. The challenge to *follow through* is before you, and how you respond will directly impact the success of this assembly.

To my heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the ability to serve in this capacity. I do not take it lightly and would not be here were it not for your guidance in my life.

## FINAL REMARKS

I lead this assembly with complete humility and look forward to the future.

The task before us is simple, but very hard to do. We know we have to GROW. We know we have to WORSHIP. We know we have to LOVE. We know we have to SERVE.

Now, in order to take Bethel to the next level, we have to *follow through* and do it.

For His Kingdom,



**Andrew T Holm**  
Lead Pastor

