

Auburn Alliance Church

2017 Annual Report

January 24, 2018

Calling Statement:

We are a family of believers, called to inspire and empower each other, through Christ, to complete His work by experiencing His love with everyone He puts in our paths.

**AUBURN ALLIANCE CHURCH
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Membership List 2018

George Allhusen
Cathy Applebee
Randy Applebee
Cheryl Austin
Andy Bates
Lauryn Bates
Wendy Bates
Kathy Beaver
Scott Beaver
Earl Brown
Mickey Brown
Paul Cammilleri
Amy Carlson
David Carlson
Lee Casler
Carol Chase
John Chase
Randy Condes
Justin Coretti
Don Delaney
Molly Delaney
Rhonda Delaney
Frank DeRosa
Dave Dineen
Debi Dineen
Janet Dodrill
Esther Eastman
Tina Eastman
Doug Eldred
Linda Eldred
Allan Finch
Jean Gaffney
Wayne Gaffney
Kelly Grieco
Scott Grieco
John Haga
Michele Haga
Duane Hahn
Evie Haines
Howard Haines, Jr.
Howard Haines, III
Jennifer Haines
Matt Haines
Ginny Hedger
Jim Hedger
Fran Herrick
Lynn Hollfelder
Marty Huth

Nancy Huth
Gretchen Jenner
Marcia Jones
Russ Jorolemon
Sharry Jorolemon
Phylis Judge
Jessica Kent
Tim Kent
Gini Kepple
Mark Kepple
Philip Kepple
Rachel Kepple
Stephen Kepple
Wendy Kepple
David Ketchum
Rebecca Ketchum
Alisha Koch
Jason Koch
Charlie Kraebel
Denise Kraebel
Denise Littlejohn
Tim Littlejohn
David Lovell
Julie Lovell
Hector Lowery
Lori Lowery
Judy Matthew
Brandon Milligan
Becky Mindek
Mark Mindek
Chad Mitchell
Jeannette Mitchell
Doris Moody
Joe Moody
Matthew Noll
Hal Parker
Kathy Parker
James Peters
Nancy Peters
Don Phetteplace
Sandy Phetteplace
Mark Phillips
Pat Phillips
Marilyn Proulx
June Quigley
Mike Quigley
David Quinn
Dorothy Quinn

Eric Quinn
Janet Quinn
Larry Quinn
Linda Quinn
Nicole Quinn
David L. Richter
Renee' Richter
Jackie Ripley
Dee Sergi
Dave Smith
Debbie Smith
Veronica Thomas
Jena Vargason
Tim Vargason
Bob Watson
Heather Watson
Joshua Watson
Leah Watson
Sue Watson
Jonna Weaver
Kirk Weaver
Barbara Zach
Dennis Zach

Active Members - 119

Inactive Members - 7

Kevin Bates
Robin Haines
Catherine Morgan
Jerry Morgan Sr.
George Tilton
Kelli Tilton
Jalayne Weeks

TOTAL: 126

AUBURN ALLIANCE CHURCH
2017 Annual Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2017

Pastor Mark Mindek opened the meeting and led the congregation in song, "To God Be The Glory."

Pastor Mark Mindek opened in prayer.

The Membership List was read, and a quorum was reached with 59 members present. (Note: 41 members are required for a quorum.)

Pastor Richter asked those present to review the minutes from the January 27, 2016 Annual Meeting and the November 20, 2016 Congregational Meeting.

Eric Quinn noted on page 8, Section 5 – Eligibility, that he read from the "Christian and Missionary Alliance Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage" and not from Alliance bylaws.

Motion and second were made to receive minutes from January 27, 2016, as amended. Motion carried.

Motion and second were made to receive minutes from November 20, 2016. Motion carried.

Pastor Mark read Philippians 2:1-15.

Pastor said that 3-4 years ago, Auburn Alliance Church owed a debt to the District, which was forgiven. During this past year, we paid the debt back. Pastor read a letter from the District Superintendent thanking the church for paying back to the District Operating Budget. Praise God!

Pastor Richter stated that, in the past, the reports read during the Annual Meeting included the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Elders and Treasurer's Report. A motion and second were made to read those reports. The motion was approved.

Pastor Richter read the Pastor's Report. Pastor recognized Russ Jorolemon, who is retiring from the Elder Board after 30 years of service.

Pastor Mindek read the Associate Pastor's Report. A motion and second were made to accept the Associate Pastor's Report. Motion carried.

Eric Quinn read the Elders' Report. A motion and second were made to accept the Elders' Report. Motion carried.

Tim Littlejohn read the Treasurer's Report. Pastor Richter said that, according to the District, the church has given \$55,000 for missions. A motion and second were made to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Nominating Committee Report

Eric Quinn said that we are doing things differently. The constitution requires that churches elect their officers by secret ballot. The ballot is two sided, with a lot of boxes. When it comes time to vote, if you want to vote for entire ballot, there is one check mark in the box that says, for all. If you don't want to vote for anybody, check, against all. If you want to vote for everybody, except for one person or more, check for all except, and then x the box next to the person's name you are voting against. When done voting, slide ballot into envelope that has been provided. Then envelopes will be collected.

Pastor is going to come; bylaws say that we need two for nominating committee and an alternate. Write the names in on the ballot as they are nominated. After nominees are in place, Pastor will ask for any other nominees on the ballot, and they can be added, except for Elders. There is space to write in names. At that point, Pastor will close nominations, you will be asked to vote on the ballot.

Dave Smith clarified that, if you write in a name, you would have to check a box against another person in that position.

Pastor asked for a motion for someone to serve on Nominating Committee for next year. Eric nominated Carol Chase. Motion and second were made. Motion carried.

Doug Eldred nominated Linda Eldred. Motion and second were made. Motion carried.

Alternate – Hector Lowery nominated Wendy Kepple. Motion and second were made. Motion carried.

Pastor asked if there was any other person that should be added to the ballot. Pastor gave direction to complete the ballot.

Pastor asked Hal Parker to count the ballots. 58 total ballots were collected: For all 55, 1 against all, 2 all except.

(Note: New people filling positions or people renewing terms are in bold type; people continuing in positions are in regular type. See the Nominating Committee Report included in the 2016 Annual Report packet for further clarification.)

Church Secretary	Jenny Haines
Disbursing Treasurer	Tim Littlejohn
Recording Treasurer	George Tilton
Counters	Kathy Beaver Tina Eastman Liz Ferlenda Becky Ketchum Denise Littlejohn Holly Martin Janet Quinn Lindsay Swab Barb Zach
Board of Ministries at Large	Matt Noll Doug Eldred
Elder (3-year term)	Don Delaney (20) David Carlson (20) John Chase (20) Hector Lowery (19) Bob Watson (19) Eric Quinn (18) David Dineen (18) Jim Peters (18) Jim Hedger (Honorary)

Deaconesses (2-year term)	Kathy Beaver (18) Denise Littlejohn (18) Linda Eldred (18) Debbie Smith (18) Fran Herrick (19) Debi Dineen (19) Denise Kraebel (19)
Facilities Team (3-year term)	Andy Bates (18) Lee Casler (18) Matt Haines (18) John Haga (19) Howard Haines III (19) Don Phetteplace (20) Dennis Zach (20) Brandon Milligan (20)
CE Chairperson	David Carlson
CE Secretary	Barb Zach
CE Service Coordinator	Nicole Quinn
CE Adult Coordinator	Matt Noll
CE College & Career Coordinator	Dave Quinn
CE Youth Coordinator	Phil Kepple
CE Children's Coordinator	Jeannette Mitchell
Great Commission Women	Becky Mindek
Song Leaders	Doug Eldred Bucky Haines Marty Huth Charlie Kraebel Chris Wright
Pianists and Organists	Cheryl Austin Kathy Beaver Doris Moody Renee' Richter Kate Smithler
Music Committee	Wendy Bates Renee' Richter
Ushers	Randy Applebee Andy Bates Austin Bates

**Jake Brown
Scott Beaver
Lee Casler
John Chase
Dave Dineen
Allan Finch
Duane Hahn (alt.)
James Leubner
Jon Leubner
Joe Moody
Jason Noll**

Auditor	Frank DeRosa
Assistant Auditor	Russ Jorolemon
Encouragement & Support Coord.	Janet Dodrill
Sanctuary Committee	Linda Eldred
Greeter Chairperson	Ken Bohman
Nominating Committee (2 + alternate)	Carol Chase Linda Eldred Alternate – Wendy Kepple

2016 Budget

Eric Quinn wanted to make note of a couple of line items. Staff salaries went down because there was a change in the insurance. Both pastors were on family insurance, and now have moved to couple's insurance. The insurance bill went down significantly. Pastor's benefits have been cleaned up: salary, book allowance, gas allowance, employer's half of FICA, 7.65% of taxable income, retirement contributions, insurances. In looking at these items, most of the line items, the allowances in particular, were taxable income the way they were allocated. Those were brought into a line item at the bottom of the proposed budget, Book Allowance. Gas allowance is under mileage. These allowances would not be taxable for the pastors. Cell phone allowance – a \$50/month cell phone stipend was added, with the stipulation that they would be available. Pastors did get an increase in salary and an increase in retirement contributions.

Small groups ministry is a big change this year, up to \$4,500 now. This pays for outings and child care.

There is a decrease in Miscellaneous. Working with the Bookkeeper, Miscellaneous expenses were allocated into correct places.

Technical and AV equipment budget lines were not spent in full, so have been decreased.

There is a new line for living nativity.

Capital Improvement has now been added, which could include anything for church projects. Nothing was in the budget before for general capital improvement.

Bucky Haines noted that the proposed increase is 1.73 percent. He asked about the IRS standard for mileage, as to whether it would be consistent, or change with the standard. It will change with the IRS standard.

Carol Chase asked about the capital improvement, as to whether this will accrue. It will accrue along the way.

Eric explained that only the staff salary and benefits, mortgage and district amounts are set amounts in the budget. The rest is a guideline. If we have a surplus, we will set it aside. We would like that to happen. Tim Littlejohn said that we have a salary cushion that extra money is put into, and now we have a place to put extra in for capital improvements.

Rhonda said that in other years, we have had a column for budget expenditures. Some information was in Treasurer's Report. Tim has a report; there are only a couple budget lines that went over. Eric offered to provide the BOM end of year budget report. Rhonda asked that it be on the budget report for next year. Eric said that we also could post on the bulletin board each month.

Motion and second were made to approve the 2017 budget. Motion carried.

Pastor thanked Eric for all of his work on the budget.

Bylaw Changes

See ballot. The proposed bylaw change is represented as written on the handout, with discussion following. Language that is underlined is proposed to be added.

Article 5 - ELDERS

Section 5 - Eligibility

Their character shall be in harmony with the requirements stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. An Elder shall be knowledgeable in the word of God and have an ability to exhort the Word. They should, also, be men of prayer. A divorced person who is remarried may be elected or appointed to the position of Elder only if the divorce(s) in question meet the criteria for biblically permissible divorce as outlined in the Christian & Missionary Alliance Statement on Marriage - Divorce - Remarriage. ~~shall not be elected or appointed to the position of Elder.~~

Pastor Richter read the proposed bylaw change. Rhonda Delaney asked if the statement addresses if the Elder is elected after a divorce. The only thing it says is that each position should be considered carefully. It does not state that elders are or are not eligible at that point.

Bucky Haines asked about what has changed, the scripture, or the people in charge that led to this being voted on back in 1977. Pastor said that it is an attempt to be closer to scripture. The denomination has scholars that get together, elected by Council, to look at things on a continuous basis. This happened back in 1977, and gave churches the ability to decide themselves if they would make the change. The Alliance did this. In 1977, the statement was made because there was no clarity from church to church.

Rhonda read what the actual statement says, under Remarriage, Section L. (Refer to Christian & Missionary Alliance *Statement on Marriage - Divorce - Remarriage*) Rhonda said that the statement does not say that it is ok to have an elder that is divorced and remarried. The statement is not telling us that we need to have people in eldership that are divorced and remarried.

Dave Lovell says that each case must be looked at separately.

Pastor said that the question should be whether they are qualified.

Mark Kepple said that this is a scriptural adjustment. He talked about the consequences for David's sin. Divorce is not a measure of spirituality. McArthur said it is a one-woman man; some men would not meet requirements because of a wandering eye. The requirement is that the man be true to one woman.

A motion and second were made. Vote was taken by secret ballot, with the following results: 7 no, 52 yes.

Denise Littlejohn said that the web site for the church is wonderful! Eric Quinn manages the web site.

Rhonda asked if there was a way to have everything recorded so that people can have a chance to hear it when they attend, and not be discouraged because of disability.

Janet Quinn asked if there was a way for there to be a place in the church for pictures with names of new people so that we can get to know new people in the church. Pastor said that we will take that up in a board meeting.

Pastor asked if anyone had a blessing to share. Michele Haga commended Phil Kepple and other youth leaders for starting a connection group for the youth as well.

Elders shared from their hearts in a Concert of Prayer service; that was a blessing.

Sue Watson said that Bob's surgeon came through at Trunk or Treat.

Phil Kepple said that the tree reminded him of Life, and he is still seeing the impacts of decisions that were made there. We are giving youth a lot of opportunities to serve and use their talents, and the older generation is pouring in to the youth. Thank you to the congregation.

Lee said the outpouring of love from congregation while he was going through cancer touched his heart. It was an incredible testimony for his children to see. In the Sunday evening service, he shared he was cancer free, and really appreciated the support.

Hector thanked the Elders for taking him under their wing and showing him how to lead. God is still working a lot through this process.

Rhonda is thankful for her 3-5 grade Sunday School class. They really share their hearts. They have blessed her heart.

Joe Moody shared that with all the issues his wife has gone through in the past, he got a letter, and he has no idea who it is from. There was a check for \$1,000 to help with expenses. When it happened, it was a big blessing. Thank you to whoever did it. By the grace of God!

Pastor Richter closed in prayer at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer L. Haines
Secretary

Senior Pastor's Report

The statistics for the last twelve months in Auburn are as follows:

Sunday Morning Service (average)	251	(Last year was 268)
Sunday School (average)	91	(Last year was 104)
Youth Groups (average)	43	(Last year was 55)
Small Groups (average)	80	
New Members	10	(Last year was 5)
Funerals	5	(Last year 3)
Baptized	9	(Last year 5)

I have been involved in the following:

- *Numerous visits (home, breakfast or lunch), counseling sessions, and hospital calls
- *Member of the Northeastern District Executive Committee
- *Attended Prayer Conference here at Auburn
- *Attended church functions and meetings
- *Attended ministry related banquets and seminars

On-going activities:

- *Supper Six
 - *Stonecroft Ministries
 - *LEAH Co-op Group
 - *Wednesday night Prayer Meeting, Quilting, SCOPE, Great Commission Women, Men's Ministry, and Saturday Morning Men's Prayer (McDonalds)
- (Mike Lynch and Women's Health Specialist are no longer using our facility.)

Events in 2017:

- Secret Sister Luncheon – January 29
- Teen Chill @ Delta - February
- Night to Shine – February 10
- Love & Respect Marriage Conference – February 24-25
- Link Classes – March 5, 12 & 19
- District Prayer Conference at AAC – April 3-5
- Easter Musical (choir) – April 9 (188 in attendance)
- Easter Service – April 16
- Connection Group Kick-Off Luncheon – April 23
- Spring Refresh Women's Conference Auburn Holiday Inn – April 28-29
- Link Classes – May 7, 21 & 28
- Secret Sister Luncheon – May 21
- Graduation Banquet – June 11
- Membership Class – June 24
- Supper Six Luncheon – June 25
- Delta Lake Family Camp – June 29-July 8
- Connection Group Kick-Off Dinner – July 9
- Link Classes – July 16, 23 & 30
- Delta Lake Youth Camps – July
- VBS – August 14-18
- Link Classes – September 10 & 17

CPR/AED Training – September 7
International Fashion Show – September 14
SOG Men’s Ministry Kick-Off – September 16
Delta Work Days – September 22-23
Fall Refocus Women’s Conference at Delta – September 29-30
Worship in the Round Concert – September 30
Missions Conference – October 1-8
CPR/AED Training – October 19
Trunk or Treat – October 28
PCC Annual Banquet for Life – November 9
Operation Christmas Child – November 19
GCW Craft Fair – December 8
Children’s Christmas Program – December 10 (140 in attendance)
Living Nativity – December 17 ((125+ cars drove through)
Christmas Musical (choir) – December 18 (207 in attendance)
Christmas Eve Service – December 24 (211 in attendance)

The Small Group ministry continues to thrive with an average of 80 attending. A couple of Sundays ago, I was talking to a young woman who had been attending our church for three consecutive Sundays. She told me that she wanted to meet more of the people from the church, and I was happy to direct her toward a small group. I continually hear positive things about our small groups, and would encourage everyone to get connected!

The information cards that people are filling out each Sunday are making the church office aware of information changes (addresses or phone numbers), prayer requests, and the desire to become part of a ministry here. These cards go a long way in helping us stay informed. A special thank you to Nicole Quinn who has taken on the tedious task of putting all the information together weekly from the cards, and making that information available to us!

This past year, we witnessed the home coming of two very special ladies, Ruth Cheney and Doris Allen. Both of these women were examples of godliness by the way they lived their lives, and they were much needed “prayer warriors”. We will miss Ruth Cheney’s contagious smile, and affable spirit. Even though she had many physical problems, she remained positive and rejoiced in the Lord. We will miss Doris Allen’s desire to do whatever she possibly could to exalt Christ and make him known to those around her. I don’t think that I’ve ever met anyone who was more excited about going to heaven than Doris was! Although we mourn the loss of these two women, we rejoice that they are even now with the Lord, which according to the Apostle Paul is “better by far” (Philippians 1:23).

Mid December I was contacted by our bank and informed that we were at the ten-year mark in our 20-year mortgage. According to our contract, our percentage rate was now opened for re-evaluation by the bank. They wanted to raise our interest rate from 4.7% to 5.5%, and examine the interest rate again in five years. We were able to get quotes from other banks in the area, and used that “leverage” to cause our bank to match the offers of the others. We will be paying ½ percent more in interest, but now have a fixed rate for ten years. And, the penalty for early pay-off of the loan, that was in our original agreement, is gone! I want to thank Fran Herrick and Barb Zach for helping me navigate this lower interest rate. I learned something through this frustrating bank experience. I learned the truth of Proverbs 22:7 which says “...the borrower is servant to the lender.” I would like the leadership to consider paying off this loan as soon as possible! There is much that we could do with the mortgage payment that goes out every month!

I want to thank Julie Lovell for her invaluable service in the church office as Secretary. I thank Mark Mindek for his hard work as Associate Pastor, especially the time and effort in leading the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall renovation. Also, I am thankful for my wife Renee' who offers a continual listening ear, encouragement, and involvement. Also, I appreciate the help of Matt and Diana Noll, as well as Sue Watson, for keeping our facility clean and presentable.

Talking about Doris and Ruth earlier reminds me of a passage from Hebrews 11:1-2 where the writer said, ¹"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

It's easy to be distracted by worldly things, things that hinder us and sin that entangles, that we lose sight of what's really important. What is important is that we keep our eyes on Jesus, and follow the example of Godly men and women who have gone before us and have finished well! May God help us "run with perseverance the race marked out for us"!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. David L. Richter

Associate Pastor's Report

This past year has been rewarding for Becky and I as we have ministered alongside you. It has been a joy to see lives changed... transformed and made into the likeness of our wonderful Savior, being associated with five individuals who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior and three who made commitments to our Lord. These new lives reborn in Him, are truly what it is all about. I am genuinely excited about this coming year as it relates to Biblical teaching, mobilization of leadership and the continued growth of our connection group ministry.

Our spiritual path this past year involved a rather interesting journey. Topics like "The Real God," "How Jesus Heals the Broken Heart," and a walk through the study of "Colossians," were clearly put together by the Spirit of Truth. Thank you for your positive feedback and encouraging interaction. Let me be open and transparent with you. When given the opportunity of preaching and rightly dividing the Word of Truth, it weighs heavy on my heart when I speak. This is not a burden coming from people, but a weight that rests heavy upon my spirit and soul, as I know the measure of responsibility that has been granted to me. I want you to know how serious the task of preaching pours through me. I do not take it lightly nor frivolously, but as called by the Lord to speak His Word in a way that is pleasing to Him.

I am very excited about this coming year as we have honed our focus on Psalm 34:8, "Taste and See that the Lord is Good" as our theme for the year. With our beginning series centered upon "The person of Jesus"... Jesus as Savior, Healer, and Sanctifying One, these truths are at the core of who we are as a denomination and central to our faith in Him! I come with expectation to see what God plans to do this coming year, particularly as we lift Him up and He draws people to Himself!

What are some of the things that have happened this past year? First of all, in 2017 we saw the launch of our connection group ministry, the mobilization of believers as "Coaches," and the formation of these small groups. We have seen incredible fruit forging during these times. Some of these groups saw some very difficult personal situations, and with the grace of the Lord and their unity in the Spirit, they persevered through. Other groups have reported building strong connections, finding prayer partners and accountability through their new

“family.” I praise the Lord for what He is doing in all of these groups. I truly believe we have turned the corner in this ministry and that it has become a vital aspect of the culture of our church.

This past year also experienced a major highlight for me, the creation of the new Kitchen and renovation of the Fireside Café and Fellowship Hall. I was overjoyed by the many hands that participated in this project. The talent and skill we have in this church truly is amazing, as well as the provision of the Lord to accomplish these projects. The replacement of the old heating boiler with the new high efficiency boiler was also completed this past year. In each of these projects God has provided, through people, the finances to complete them. Thank you, Lord, for your provision!

This past year also saw a grand surprise through the local foundation, French/Metcalf Foundations. Their generosity to us by giving to the expansion of our parking lot of \$25,000 was completely unexpected. With the need for more parking always looming, we found it prudent to fill in along the edge of our embankment, hoping to make available 44 new spots for parking. The process of backfilling is a slow process, but with us working with local contractors, we have been able to receive the dirt and fill required for free. I anticipate that this process will take at least another year or more as we are continuing to make our way south toward the parsonage. We hope to finalize the engineering designs for the parking lot with the city planning office this coming year.

The French/Metcalf Foundations also recently surprised us with another grant centered upon our capital improvement projects. The Foundation gave us another \$17,000 toward the capital improvement projects and closing costs for the refinancing of our mortgage with Key Bank. I am thoroughly surprised and overjoyed by God’s provision of putting in the heart of our local community leaders these practical, yet important needs we have. It reminds me of the fact that we exist within this community to impact it for the Glory of God. Ministries such as Music Concerts, Trunk or Treat, The Home, Rescue Mission Meals, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Living Nativity, Night to Shine and Substance Abuse Ministry may seem small in the scope of their impact, yet from the world’s view, we are invading our community in strategic ways to win their hearts through generosity and love. Let me be honest, at times I feel tired from the multiple directions we as a church move to invade our community, but when you come across a person from our community that you have never met and they tell you: “I know that church, it’s the church that...” You can see it not only has affected their perspective of us, it has torn down a barrier that will lead them to hear the truth of Jesus. I want to thank you for your part in our church family as we move deeper into the 21st century, with the goal of impacting our community for Him.

I want to be sure to thank the “young” men of our Golden Guys, who were not only the back bone of our kitchen project, but even took on more tasks this past fall with a joyful spirit and humble attitude. I have grown to love Tuesday mornings... listening to stories and watching as they check off the list of many mundane repairs our facility requires. Thank you, men, for making the Lord’s house a beautiful place. I can’t forget hidden warriors of custodial duties who faithfully keep the church clean and smelling good. Thank you, Matt and Diana Noll and Sue Watson for lovingly and humbly serving us with the cleaning of the church.

Lastly, I want to thank my work mates, Julie Lovell, and Pastor Richter for giving to the Lord their gifts and talents for the building of His church. I truly look forward to coming to the office each day, knowing that through God’s wisdom and direction we can be the church He desires. Thank you!

In His Name,
Rev. D. Mark Mindek

Elders' Report

For Auburn Alliance Church, there are many reasons to rejoice and give thanks. There are more people engaged in more ministries throughout the week than we have ever seen at the church.

The Elders have been very excited to see that the Connection Groups small group ministry has been averaging 80 people each week, and the number of Auburn Alliance Connection Groups throughout the area are increasing. We love what we are hearing from the people who are attending the Connection Groups. New and stronger relationships are being forged; there is real and relevant application of God's word happening in their lives; there is accountability among friends; and they are holding each other up in prayer. We are grateful for all of the Connection coaches and hosts for all they have put into making these groups successful. We are also grateful to Nicole Quinn for all of the effort she has put into organizing the groups and the events surrounding the Connection Ministry.

The Link classes that occur every other month have also continued to be a successful way to engage new and seasoned attendees alike. There are again, many positive comments coming back to the leadership from those who attend about how nice it is to engage with the pastors and leadership, and how it is helpful to gain insight into the vision and ministries of Auburn Alliance. The link classes have also proved to be extremely valuable in becoming the first step in ministry engagement and in church membership. If you have not yet attended the Link classes, no matter how long you have been attending Auburn Alliance, I would greatly encourage you to do so this year.

It is extremely exciting to watch new ministries taking shape. Mark Phillips, along with Jon Leubner and Tom Wingfield have launched the Stronghold of God Men's ministry that has engaged men in the church and has opened the door to reach many more who look at the church from the outside and wonder what God has for them.

In 2017 the Auburn Alliance leadership focused on Spiritual growth in the church, with several sermon series' that really connected with the congregation. We have been encouraged many times by people telling us how the series entitled "Jesus Heals the Broken Heart" connected and transformed lives and brought hurting people to a place of healing.

While we have a lot to be thankful for, there are also concerns among the Elders about our church and our community.

First, we recognize that it is getting more and more difficult to get our own people to lead ministries, to teach and to volunteer for different positions in the church. We recognize that we as church leaders need to do a much better job discipling, mentoring, teaching, equipping, encouraging and supporting our church family to get involved and to become a part of the ministry of Auburn Alliance.

This year the Elders are committed to discipling and support discipling ministries that raises up people in the church to use their God-given gifts and talents to bring glory to Him and to increase the kingdom. This will not be easy as our society puts pressure on people to stay busy in so many other ways, but we are digging in and making it a priority to create stronger, more confident Christians.

Secondly, the elders are committing to finding new and effective ways for the Auburn Alliance family to better serve our local community. The bad news is that there is a lot of hurt and brokenness in the Auburn, NY area and the surrounding communities. The good news is that brokenness is creating so many different opportunities

for Auburn Alliance to meet the people right around us right where they are at, to invest in their lives, to give them hope, and to show them the love of Jesus so that we can reach as many people as possible with the Good News of salvation in Christ.

Be on the lookout for ways to get involved that inspire you, that touch your heart, and that allow you to be fully blessed through using your gifts to bless others. Ask yourself, "What can I do to reach people with the help of my church?" Together we will change our community and see people come to Christ in numbers like we have never seen before.

We also ask you to pray for the churches around the Auburn area as well. It seems that recently many of the evangelical churches in the area have been struggling and we want them to be healthy so that we can partner with them in reaching lost people.

As you pray for the Elders and the church, pray that we would stand united. Pray that God would lead us into new ministries that affect people further outside of the Auburn Alliance building, and that push us to grow our faith and to rely on God and each other to sustain and grow that which God has entrusted to us here.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Quinn
2017 Elder Board Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that God continued to bless Auburn Alliance Church financially in 2017. We had the necessary funds for many ministries and capital improvements. Here are the 2017 financial highlights.

Total giving for operating expenses was \$382,427.60, which averages to \$7215.61 per week. This year there were 53 Sundays. This is the closest we have ever been to the weekly needed for budget. We spent \$383,096.45 (this does not include the new Kitchen or and Fellowship Hall renovations), which is an average of \$7228.23 per week. For the year, we spent \$668.85 more than came in for current income.

Mortgage payments totaled \$82,434.90. Of this amount \$28,437.17 was interest. The principal was reduced by \$53,997.73 bringing our mortgage loan balance to \$544,890.83.

This is the first year since I became treasurer that the aging summary has been current throughout the year. This means that the church has not been behind on any payments.

We implemented the option of online giving through the Tithe.ly web site. Donations have been made in all of the giving categories. Total online contributions were just short of \$32,500.

Mission donations through the green envelopes and Tith.ly was \$ 52,280.98.

God has abundantly supplied the financial resources for the ministries of Auburn Alliance Church. I am looking forward to seeing God's provision in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Littlejohn

2018 Nominating Committee Report

*Names in bold are up for re-election.

POSITION	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Church Secretary	Jenny Haines	Fran Herrick
Disbursing Treasurer	Tim Littlejohn	Tim Littlejohn
Recording Treasurer	George Tilton	Amy Carlson
Counters	Kathy Beaver, Tina Eastman, Liz Ferlenda, Becky Ketchum, Denise Littlejohn, Holly Martin, Janet Quinn, Lindsay Swab, Barb Zach	Kathy Beaver, Tina Eastman, Liz Ferlenda, Becky Ketchum, Denise Littlejohn, Holly Martin, Janet Quinn, Lindsay Swab, Barb Zach
Board of Ministries at Large	Matt Noll, Doug Eldred	Matt Noll, Doug Eldred
Elder (Three Year Term)	Don Delaney (20) David Carlson (20) John Chase (20) Hector Lowery (19) Bob Watson (19) Hal Parker (19) Eric Quinn (18) Dave Dineen (18) Jim Peters (18) Jim Hedger (Honorary)	Don Delaney (20) David Carlson (20) John Chase (20) Hector Lowery (19) Bob Watson (19) Hal Parker (19) Eric Quinn (21) Dave Dineen (21) Jim Peters (21) Jim Hedger (Honorary)
Deaconess (Two Year Term)	Kathy Beaver (18) Denise Littlejohn (18) Linda Eldred (18) Debbie Smith (18) Fran Herrick (19) Debi Dineen (19) Denise Kraebel (19)	Kathy Beaver (20) Denise Littlejohn (20) Linda Eldred (20) Pat Phillips (20) Fran Herrick (19) Debi Dineen (19) Denise Kraebel (19)
Facilities Team (Three Year Term)	Andy Bates (18) Lee Casler (18) Matt Haines (18) John Haga (19) Howard Haines III (19) Don Phetteplace (20) Dennis Zach (20) Brandon Milligan (20)	Andy Bates (21) Lee Casler (21) Matt Haines (21) John Haga (19) Howard Haines III (19) Don Phetteplace (20) Dennis Zach (20) Brandon Milligan (20)
CE Chairperson	David Carlson	David Carlson
CE Secretary	Barb Zach	Wendy Kepple
CE Service Coordinator	Nicole Quinn	Nicole Quinn
CE Adult Coordinator	Matt Noll	Mark Phillips
CE College & Career Coordinator	Dave Quinn	

CE Youth Coordinator	Phil Kepple	Phil Kepple
CE Children's Coordinator	Jeannette Mitchell	Jeannette Mitchell
Great Commission Women	Becky Mindek	Becky Mindek
Song Leaders	Doug Eldred, Bucky Haines, Marty Huth, Charlie Kraebel Chris Wright	Doug Eldred, Bucky Haines, Marty Huth, Charlie Kraebel, Chris Wright
Pianists & Organists	Cheryl Austin, Kathy Beaver, Doris Moody, Renee' Richter Kate Smithler	Cheryl Austin, Kathy Beaver, Doris Moody, Renee' Richter, Kate Smithler
Music Committee	Wendy Bates, Renee' Richter	Wendy Bates, Renee' Richter
Ushers	Randy Applebee, Andy Bates, Austin Bates, Jake Brown, Scott Beaver, Lee Casler, John Chase, Dave Dineen, Allan Finch, Duane Hahn (alt.), James Leubner, Jon Leubner, Joe Moody, Jason Noll	Randy Applebee, Andy Bates, Jake Brown, Scott Beaver, Lee Casler, John Chase, Dave Dineen, Allan Finch, James Leubner, Jon Leubner, Joe Moody, Jason Noll
Auditor	Frank DeRosa	Frank DeRosa
Assistant Auditor	Russ Jorolemon	Russ Jorolemon
Encouragement & Support Coordinator	Janet Dodrill	Janet Dodrill
Sanctuary Committee	Linda Eldred	Linda Eldred
Greeter Chairperson	Ken Bohman	Ken Bohman
Nominating Committee	Carol Chase, Linda Eldred Wendy Kepple (alt.), Dave Smith, Russ Jorolemon	

Deaconess Report

The Deaconesses met six times during 2017.

As in the past several years, Denise Littlejohn keeps up with all changes to the prayer chain and makes sure it functions smoothly.

Linda Eldred again has looked after providing floral arrangements for funerals and dish gardens as needed.

Denise Kraebel kept track of communion supplies and made sure that we're always well-stocked. As has been the custom for many years, each Deaconess takes care of set-up and clean-up for two months each year.

Kathy Beaver heads up the ministry of meals for those needing assistance due to hospitalization, extended illness, etc. Debi Dineen assists when Kathy is unavailable. There have been 39 meals provided this year.

Debi Dineen also records the minutes of our meetings and sends them out to us almost immediately.

The Deaconesses continue to offer prayer and support for any women who may go forward for prayer.

Of course, we always enjoy assisting with Baptismal services, providing robes, towels and moral support for those who are a little nervous!!

We've begun discussing a couple of other areas in which the Deaconesses may be of service and will investigate those more fully in 2018.

It's my privilege to serve with these Godly women who have a heart for the ministries under the care of the Deaconesses.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Herrick

A String and a Prayer Quilting Ministry Report

String and a Prayer Quilt Ministry has been very busy making quilts. Eight quilts were sent out this year. We meet twice each month in the quilt room to fellowship, sew and pray.

Prayer is powerful. As a ministry we pray for each quilt request and as a congregation you have the opportunity to pray for the recipient of each quilt. I want you to know that lives are touched and people encouraged through these quilts and the prayers that go with them.

Thank you to all of you who have faithfully tied knots on the quilts and prayed for people who are hurting.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Applebee

Fellowship Committee Report

The Fellowship Committee serves our church body by coordinating food and hospitality for our fellowship gatherings and outreach events.

In 2017, the Fellowship Committee served in the following areas:

- Set up refreshments for Annual Meeting
- Catered the Love and Respect Seminar
- Catered the Night to Shine event
- Catered the Northeastern District and Prayer Conference
- Dish to pass dinners throughout the year
- Set up refreshments for one funeral
- Set up refreshments following Children's Christmas program

We look forward to administering God's grace in this practical way in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Quinn

Great Commission Women Report

It has been exciting to see not only women of the church, but our church, as a whole, catch the vision of engaging in The Great Commission! The purpose of Great Commission Women in the local church is to educate and engage the congregation in missional support through prayer, world awareness and financial giving. As I write this report, I am filled with gratefulness for how God has allowed our church to pray, give and go into our community and world. Thank you to Amy Carlson, prayer coordinator and District Prayer Team and Fran Herrick, Treasurer, for your humble service and wise counsel. Thank you also to Janet Dodrill who continues to collect, cut and send our donated, used postage stamps, which are sold to collectors and helps purchase Christian Literature in South America.

NATIONAL PROJECT:

The 2016-17 theme for Great Commission Women was "GPS...God's Positioning System," supporting our International Workers as they assisted displaced (diaspora) people. The new national theme for 2017-18 is, "More," focusing on at-risk girls in West Africa, pregnant teens in Ecuador, human trafficking survivors in Cambodia and female prisoners in the Philippines as based on Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners."

With these overlooked and important people groups before us, Auburn Alliance Great Commission Women were challenged to seek God for their part in engaging in the needs of our International Workers, by praying, learning about and financially supporting our International Workers as they minister in their countries. We

studied the different groups of people, prayed for our IW's and their needs and raised money towards the 2016-17 GPS national project goal of \$ 330,000 with the Northeastern District goal being \$20,000.

Connection Café Donations:

January	\$134.42	July	\$63.93
February	\$128.36	August	\$86.81
March	\$135.48	September	\$105.41
April	\$102.02	October	\$89.51
May	\$116.91	November	\$87.61
June	\$94.00	December	<u>\$109.15</u>
Total Connection Café Donations			\$1,253. 61
-Café Expenses (cups, coffee, tea, etc.)			<u>-\$482.94</u>
<u>Connection Café Net to National Project</u>			\$770.67
<u>Mason Jar Bank Donations</u>			\$564.44
<u>Artisan/Craft Fair Donations</u>			<u>\$852.25</u>

TOTAL Auburn Alliance GCW National Project Offering \$2,187.36

MINISTRIES/EVENTS/MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Finances:

Balance on 1/1/2017	\$210.48
Monthly Offerings	<u>\$275.20</u>
Total Income:	\$485.68

Expenses:

Grace Varela Gift	\$150.00
National Ministry Fund	\$50.00
International Worker Outfits	\$115.00
District Expense	\$40.00
Alliance Missions Moments Video	\$19.95
Fashion Show Gifts to Participants	<u>\$66.37</u>
Total Expenses:	\$441.32
Balance on 12/31/2017	\$44.36

Monthly Meetings: (attendance)

- January – Grace Varela - “Honduras” (15)
- February – Valentine’s Outreach (14)
- March - “Who We Are in Christ” (8)
- April – District Conference “women’s area” donations (6)
--District Spring ‘Refresh’ at Holiday Inn, Auburn (23)
- May – “Upset the Fruit Basket” (8)
- June – Quigley’s “walk & bonfire” – Heather Watson “Guinea” (12)
- July – Delta Lake Family Camp Women’s Rally (6)
- August - Strawberry Fields – Essential Oils, Grace Varela (17)
- September – International Fashion Show and conversation partners launched with CCC students (45)

--District Fall "Refocus" – Delta Lake Camp (8)
October – Missions Conference "Day in the Life of an IW's Wife" (24)
November - Council Requests Prayer Focus (6)
December – First GCW Family Artisan Fair (35 Artisans & Volunteers)

I am thankful to all of the faithful GCW who attend, pray, work, plan, minister, give and support missions...and we thank YOU, THE CHURCH, for your part in The Great Commission as we continue to support our International Workers of the C&MA in over 50 countries. May God guide us into 2018 as we ENGAGE in HIS WORD, HIS WORK AND HIS WORLD.

Serving together,
Becky Mindek

REMINDER: STAY CONNECTED WITH C&MA MINISTRIES! Please subscribe to your FREE "ALLIANCE LIFE" magazine of the C&MA (on-line or at the Welcome Center in the Foyer). And visit the National C&MA web site at cmalliance.org.

Christian Education Committee

Chairman's Report

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19–20)

Our Lord Jesus Christ provided us with marching orders when He gave us the great commission. This is a task for the entire church family and this family has delegated leadership of this task to the members of the Christian Education Committee. As a team of dedicated disciple-makers, we have been working to provide Christ-centered educational opportunities for learning about and growing in our walk with Jesus Christ. We have a lot of good ideas but we don't know everything, so if you have ideas or suggestions about possible training opportunities please let me or one of the coordinators know so we may consider your suggestions for the future.

In addition to continuing educational opportunities, we have streamlined the process of approving workers for ministry opportunities. We have also been working on position descriptions for volunteer workers, and a vision for the future to integrate ministries, connection groups, and intentional outreach into our disciple making plan. As a part of planning for the future, we have been discussing the possibility of and need for hiring a Youth Pastor to lead the children/youth ministries.

I would like to thank all those who participate in the Disciple making ministries of this church family, which includes almost everyone since participation in any one of the organized activities from Sunday School to Trunk or Treat counts. We must continue to lift up the name of our Lord Jesus to make disciples for the Kingdom of God. With a special thank you for the coordinators of each ministry on the committee for all their hard work and dedication.

Let us not grow weary in our work and continue to work together in the name of the Lord Jesus to make disciples, baptize them and teach them. There is much to be done to bring back the King and it will take every devoted disciple of Jesus Christ to make this happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Children Coordinator's Report

Children's Ministries takes a lot of people and I thank all the special people involved each week and throughout the year. A big thank you goes to Mickey Brown, Rhonda Delaney, Michele Haga, Jenny Haines, Samantha Hodge, Tim and Jessica Kent, Becky Mindek, June Quigley, Lindsay Swab and Michelle Wright for their weekly commitment of teaching Sunday School and Kids Connect (formally Junior AYF) classes. Also, a big thank you to Amy Carlson and Michele Haga for help this past summer while our guest speakers shared the cultures around our globe. Our children really enjoyed learning about different countries and how to pray for their people. We are grateful to those in our congregation that shared their first-hand experiences.

Thank you to all our Nursery and Junior Church volunteers who provide a safe atmosphere for our youngest ones during the Sunday morning service. Our adults would not be able to participate in corporate worship as a body of believers if it wasn't for you. Paula Koffler, the Junior Church Coordinator, and Jena Vargason, the Nursery Coordinator have done another great job scheduling volunteers for these ministries this year; thank you!

After 20 years, Kelly Grieco has decided to step down as Vacation Bible School Director (hopefully not forever). I am personally thankful for Kelly's heart to serve my children, our church's children and our community with a fun-filled week learning of God's love each summer.

Our fall Sunday School Contest awarded children a trip to Get Air (a trampoline park) and lunch at Pizza Hut. The winners were: Mallory Brown, Kerri Carlson, Tyler Mitchell, Matthew Norton, Taylor Quinn, and Nathaniel Swab. These kids not only attended Sunday School regularly, but memorized many Bible verses to earn this special day; congratulations to all our participants & winners!

Each week our children are involved in many classes to learn about Jesus and the love He has for us and I often wonder how much they comprehend, but my questions were forgotten the night of The Backwards Christmas Pageant. These kids loved the costumes, songs and performing, but I saw more than that in their energy; I saw Jesus' love in each of their smiles as they shared His story. That night is what life is about and I pray that each of the ones involved and you remember God's promises every day.

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Luke 18: 16-17

In Christ's name,
Jeannette Mitchell

Youth Coordinator's Report

This past year has been another year to be thankful to God for the work He has done in the youth ministry here at Auburn Alliance. A special thank you goes to all the leaders and parents for the support and input in the lives of the teens, but also to the teens that have been involved in this ministry. We have experienced one of the best years of spiritual growth in individual teens since I have been involved with this group. Most of these areas of growth are subtle and to many, even the individuals themselves at times, may go unnoticed. For so many I

have been extremely proud and encouraged by them. We as leaders are prayerful that God will continue this work not only in the teen's lives, but in us as leaders. We know there is a lot more work to do! Youth ministry is very challenging, especially from a volunteer status, but the reward is worth it all and we pray for God's direction in this area of our church. We are holding an immeasurable wealth in our hands with the youth not only of our church but also in the communities that surround us. May we be faithful with the resources God has given to us.

Starting this past fall, we have changed the meeting night of Youth Group as an experiment with not only allowing a diversity of meeting times separate from Sundays, but also to allow the "bigger" room to be available for the younger kids on Sunday nights. In December we transitioned to Saturday nights to again experiment with a different night and will continue this through the end of March to evaluate once more. Through these changes, attendance has not been affected as we continue to average around 20-25 teens per night with the highest being around 36. Any night will provide challenges as schedules and lives are busy no matter what night Youth Group is held but we are grateful to the parents and teens that have faithfully attended throughout these changes. We continue to strive to connect with teens through the Connection ministry within Youth Group but also through fun and fellowship. Our goal in Youth Group is to assist families and teens in the growth of their relationship with Christ. We covet your prayer and support as a church family and look forward to what God has in store for 2018! Please pray for our teens and also the upcoming Teen Chill retreat planned for February 2-4 at Delta Lake.

This year we have tried to have a variation of activities and themes for Youth Group nights to allow for the diversity of how our teens interact and connect. We understand not everyone is begging for athletic challenges and some are not all about connecting through ice breaker games. We are trying to make Youth Group as welcoming as possible, but to be honest we just want teens to come and have fun. The rest will follow! Furthermore, I would challenge any teen that has not been involved recently that it is not too late to start. We would love to see all teens that attend our church to get involved as this ministry is about them. If anyone would like to know more about what is going on at Youth Group, either myself or any of the leaders would be happy to share with you!

We are in the preparation stages for LIFE 2019 and more information will be coming out soon. Please stay tuned for an informational meeting for parents and eligible teens.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Kepple

College & Career Coordinator's Report

Our College and Career age folks continue to step out in their relationships with God and following His leading into service for Him both at home and away. Many of the College and Career students serve as teachers and leaders in many programs at Auburn Alliance Church, many have served at Christian camps and programs through the summer, and have participated in short/medium term mission trips in the past year!

The College and Career group has been meeting on Sunday evenings in room 105. We participated in the Connection Group study "The Real God" with the rest of the church family. We covered a variety of topics through the summer and finished the year with an excellent video series by Ben Stuart called "Single, Dating, Engaged, Married." We also attended Passion 2018 in Washington DC with three students.

Starting in 2018 we will be joining up with one of the Connection Groups on Sunday nights. We will see how the Connection Group format works for this age group and continue to follow God's leading both in content and format.

Thank you for your prayers for this age group in our church and for your financial support for those who have needed it to follow God's leading in their next steps with Him! Also a huge thank you to Linda Quinn for great food at our gatherings after class!

Sincerely,
Dave Quinn

Treasurer's Report

Sunday School Account

Balance On Hand 12/31/2016	\$381.39	
Sunday School Offerings 01/01/2017-12/31/2017	\$1,260.99	
Church Offerings	\$1,178.60	
Bank Interest	\$1.52	
	<u>\$2,822.50</u>	\$2,822.50

Expenditures 01/01/2017-12/31/2017

United World Missions-Terry Malone	\$480.00	
Great Commission Fund	\$240.34	
Appreciation Gifts (Kelly Grieco-VBS)	\$121.60	
Sunday School Materials	\$717.43	
	<u>\$1,559.37</u>	\$1,559.37

Balance On Hand 12/31/2017

\$1,263.13

Average Sunday School Attendance

2017	87
2016	97
2015	99
2014	91
2013	95
2012	100
2011	97

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara M. Zach

Facilities Team Report

The Facilities Team is a volunteer group from the church responsible for ongoing maintenance of the facility and grounds, as well as special projects that arise.

Again, and continually we would like to thank and give special recognition to the Golden Guys, a separate group of retired individuals that complete most of the maintenance issues that arise. Thank you to Larry Quinn for again leading this group.

The parking lot expansion is ongoing and was one of the larger projects undertaken this year. Also, a new boiler/heating system was put into service on the original side of the church. Thank you to all involved.

The new Kitchen and work in the Fellowship Hall, done largely with volunteer labor from the church, was a fantastic success.

Thank you to Matt and Diana Noll, as well as Sue Watson for week to week cleaning of the entire facility.

Upcoming projects include continuing to develop the parking lot expansion, a new vestibule/entry at the main Sanctuary, new entry doors and more work in the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall areas.

More than anything we give glory and praise to Jesus Christ. Please remember our freedom to worship Him out in the open. Please appreciate our wonderful facility. Please thank Jesus for His provision. It is a pleasure to serve you and our awesome God.

Sincerely,
Lee Casler

Missions Committee Report

The theme for 2017 was “Peculiar People.” The idea of “Peculiar People” comes from 1 Peter 2:9 of the King James Version which says “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into this wonderful light.” The idea is that we should live our lives in a different way than those in darkness. We should be peculiar according to the standards of the world that His wonderful light may shine through us.

The annual week-long mission celebration has two primary goals: to encourage and raise up new workers for reaching the lost and to increase awareness of, and giving to the Great Commission Fund (GCF). Both goals help to provide for the continued efforts of the C&MA reaching the lost in places that have no or little gospel access and the ultimate goal of bringing back the King.

This year’s mission celebration was held from October 1-8, 2017 and our international worker was Pastor Joe, the lead pastor of an international Alliance Fellowship in Palestine. The week started with Pastor Joe serving up the morning message on the October 1 and ended on the October 8 with a concert of prayer, when we hosted the congregation of the Geneva Community Alliance Church for a hot dog roast. The days of the week in between were filled with activities to reach various groups of our congregation.

I would like to thank the members of the mission's team for all their hard work and for those individuals who helped set up the activities during the week and to those who fed, sheltered and provided for Pastor Joe in some way, including those who gave to the love offering.

Moving forward to next year there will need to be some changes to the mission's team and the way we celebrate missions. The National Office of the C&MA will no longer plan Missions emphasis weeks for the entire country. The task of planning mission's tours has been moved down to the District level and will include input from each Church. At this time, it is not clear as to how this will work, however, we can work on creating our own model for the future. To begin this planning process, I would like to put a team of missions minded disciples together. We will meet monthly all year to plan and implement strategies for increasing awareness of missions, possible mission activities and creating partnerships with existing fields – such as Pastor Joe in Palestine. If you would like to be a part of this new team, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
David Carlson