

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017 | Book 1 of 2



SHERWOOD PARK
ALLIANCE CHURCH



Lead Pastor

On the other side of this page my friend Glen makes a seasonal reference, so I will too!

Greg Hochhalter,
Lead Pastor

This is by far my favorite time of the year. I love the fall colors, the falling leaves, putting away the hoses, and putting the patio stuff in the shed. Other than putting the cover on the motorcycle, I really do enjoy the transition from fall to winter (ask me if I still mean it in January!).

Part of the reason I like this season is that it's a natural time of reflection. As a person with an activist personality, I'm always looking forward. But sometimes looking back is beneficial. That's what this booklet is – a look back at the most recent ministry year.

There's much to celebrate: The fruitful launch of the School of Discipleship, witnessing life-change as evidenced by baptisms, the giving of \$780,045 to hurting families and ministry partners locally and across the globe, a largely successful capital campaign (Renew), the recruitment of several new staff team members and lay ministry leaders, ongoing health in our kid's, youth, and school (SCA) ministries...all around us is evidence of God at work.

We're committed more than ever to being a **Hospitable** church where it's possible to belong before you believe. We're serious about being a **Transformational** church which produces disciples who love and live like Jesus. And we're passionate about being a **Missional** church, known for advancing God's Kingdom dream locally and globally.

I believe there's no problem in life that isn't made better through apprenticeship to Jesus. And I believe our church is called to play a leading role in seeing every person in the Edmonton metropolitan region collide with God's Kingdom. As each and every person who calls Sherwood Park Alliance their church home commits to this vision, God's impact in our community knows no bounds. Will you join in?



Board of Elders

As we in Canada know, God has created very distinct times of the year and with each season we have different things we need to prepare – lawn mowers in spring, snow blowers in the fall. In a similar way, we have been preparing for a new season at Sherwood Park Alliance Church.

Glen Tjostheim,
Board Chair

We have undertaken, and will soon be fully into, our renewed facilities. We are looking forward to a new season of God working in and through our updated sanctuary and media technologies.

Your leadership continues to look for ways that we can better serve our region. Some areas we already support include We Care, Palm Ministries, Saddle Lake, Clothing Exchange, and more. We look towards how God might expand our influence in these coming days.

We have been blessed by our staff. Our Lead Pastor, Greg Hochhalter, returned from his 3 month sabbatical in mid-July. He came back energized, purposeful and challenging us with new insights through his preaching and teaching. In his time away, Wayne Regehr took on additional responsibilities and I want to acknowledge and thank him for the great work he did and continues to do. Some of this work included recruitment of new pastoral team members and staff to support all that goes on as part of our Church. We are well equipped for the upcoming season.

I call you to please pray for your church and specifically for:

Those in our church and community that need us to be the hands and feet of Jesus - that we would meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Those who have been called to serve (if you are called are you really a volunteer?) in different ministries, may whatever is done be for the glory of God; may His light and joy leak from them.

Our pastors, that they would be messengers of love, hope and always instruments of His grace.

Your Elders, that they know the heart of God for our church as they look to the upcoming and future seasons and seek His wisdom.

Hospitable

Thank you for all you've done over the years to make this a safe place, a safe spiritual home for me. It feels like family.

PAUL

The people I get to serve alongside are my family - my brothers and sisters in Christ; where I fit in and feel a sense of belonging in my life. The last ministry year at SPAC has revealed a real sense that God is moving us, as a body, gently onto a new path and there has been a real heightened sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in Worship Arts to rest in God's will for that.

SUZANNE

COMMUNION CUPS PREPARED

 20800


NUMBER OF SERVICES

 156

NUMBER OF GUEST ARTISTS

 5

COOKIES PREPARED FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

 76^{DOZ}

OH I ONCE WAS LOST
BUT NOW I AM FOUND
WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE



3 TOP WORSHIP SONGS



The Lion and the Lamb
This I Believe
Great Are You Lord

NUMBER OF TEACHING SERIES



The Power of a Courageous Spirit

Numbers 13 & 14



Daniel: Doing Life in Babylon

How to live a life as a faithful believer in the context of an unbelieving world.



The Lost Sons

An introduction to the Christian faith for those unfamiliar with its teachings and also a challenge to long-time believers who have yet to grasp the nature of the gospel.



Carols

God is with us – in answered promises, realized dreams, and refreshed hope. Let's explore the songs born from our joy that Christ has entered the world.



It's in You to Give

Thinking about, studying, praying about, and celebrating generous giving.



Old Testament Passages that Shape How I Think About God

The attributes of God, the nature and character of God, the doctrine of God, doubts about God, the theology of God – the way we think about God and several important Old Testament texts that shape our thinking.



The Resisters

As we approach Easter 2017 we're going to dig into the passion narratives in the gospels and examine the lives and actions of three people with agendas which were at odds with Jesus...we're going to expose some of the ways we're a lot like them...and in the end, we're going to learn about the futility of resistance.



New Testament Passages that Shape How I Think About God

The attributes of God, the nature and character of God, the doctrine of God, doubts about God, the theology of God – the way we think about God and several important New Testament texts that shape our thinking.

3 TOP WATCHED VIDEOS



An Atheist and a Christian Walk into a Bar

171



The Renew Story

118



Daniel: Doing Life in Babylon

112

“ The church has been on my mind after our family visited. It feels odd to feel the need to thank a church for being welcoming... but our experience at the church was so unique and so moving and so important to our family, that I must write. Three of us are baptized and one is not. As we visited various churches together over the last year, I was starting to fear - How could she ever come to know Jesus if she didn't feel welcome in the churches that were supposed to represent him?

The sincere welcome that we experienced at church truly was and continues to be lifechanging. Our entire family was unbelievably moved by the heartfelt and unconditional acceptance and caring conveyed to us. It was like hearing the good news, drinking water that took away thirst, or experiencing the promised freedom of the gospel.

The person in our family who is not a Christian has come back to SPAC and has told her friends and family about her welcoming experience at the church. As a lifelong church attendee, I personally felt as though I had heard the 'good news' for the very first time. My husband understood why people in the day of Jesus would go and tell their friends to come and see, to come and hear.

For all of us, visiting church that day was a beautiful gift filled with hope, love, and promise. I really cannot express how deeply the message of love and welcome touched me, touched all of us.

It has been lifechanging and I am deeply grateful. ”

— M.K.



ATTENDED PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR



101

Transformational

I have gone through a time where I felt I was losing myself, my faith, and the zeal that I once had. Being part of the School of Discipleship has helped me to renew my passion and love for God.

ANONYMOUS

ATTENDED JOY & BACON ANNUAL EVENTS



PARTICIPATED IN MARRIAGE SEMINAR



I am more aware of the power and authority I have in Christ. I learned to hear God speak to me through His word.

ANONYMOUS

HELPING HANDS MEALS PREPARED



COMPLETED SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP YEAR 1



BAPTISMS



“ If 3 years ago you would have told me that I’d be experiencing a whole new level of joy and intimacy in my relationship with God, and on top of that, that I’d be helping others do the same, I wouldn’t have believed you! Why? Well, somewhere along the way, with all the busyness of life, I had settled for doing what I thought was my duty and not much more—when it came to church, I was just “warming a pew”.

So what changed? God used a journey through cancer to reawaken me to His goodness. In His mercy He restored my health and ignited a desire to redeem the years I wasted. I asked God to lead me to a ministry opportunity that would fit with how He made me and in keeping with my gifting.

I remember the Sunday I first heard about School of Discipleship. At one point in the past I’d had a zeal for discipling and right away I knew this was God’s leading. I offered to help out in whatever way I could. I’ve helped in the office and set-up, but the best part has been facilitating a table. There are ladies at all different stages in their spiritual journey and together we’ve been learning so much about really having a relationship with Jesus and about enjoying Him. We ask hard questions but we also laugh a lot!

For me, Dave, I’ve also been challenged recently to use my gifts to serve the Body of Christ. School of Discipleship has allow me to use my gifts and also deepen my relationship with Jesus as I facilitate a table of guys. Because I really enjoy some of the “hands-on” physical work I’ve also been happy to contribute by doing room set-up. As well, I’ve recently been assisting with some of the other maintenance work at SPAC and enjoyed using my gifts that way.

For both of us School of Discipleship has given us a renewed passion for knowing God through His Word, for a closer walk with Him and for helping others find that as well. ”

— Ann & Dave Robertson

TOURNAMENTS & GAMING NIGHTS HOSTED BY THEWAYGAMING



FAMILIES IMPACTED BY BENEVOLENT FUNDS



TOTAL NUMBER OF CLOTHING EXCHANGE EVENTS HELD TO DATE



VOLUNTEERS WHO VISIT BI-WEEKLY AT SHERWOOD CARE CENTRE



I gained fresh excitement about my faith because I learned that I’m God’s ambassador everyday and I don’t do this on my own but with His power.

ANONYMOUS

Thank you many times over to you, and to the people at the Alliance Church who are and were so willing to help a stranger! Me! I am so grateful for the help I received. You all have been a huge help to me.

BENEVOLENT RECIPIENT

AVERAGE SENIORS SUPPER ATTENDANCE



Missional

I learned that God and I are on a mission. I am a vital part of the work that He is engaged in in this world.

ANONYMOUS

If we are not employing our gifts... we are not receiving the joy of serving and others are missing out.

ANONYMOUS

PEOPLE SERVING IN WORSHIP ARTS

 **230**

PEOPLE SERVING IN YOUTH MINISTRIES

 **78**

PEOPLE SERVING IN SONBURST KIDS' MINISTRY

 **266**

PEOPLE SERVING IN FOOD SERVICES

 **57**

PEOPLE SERVING IN ADULT MINISTRIES

 **269**





“

Many people from my past probably wouldn't have thought of me as a suitable candidate for ministry, myself included. Through this journey, Christ has taught me that it's not up to me to decide where he can or can't operate. He doesn't just belong in my life while I'm at church on the weekend, or in my home when I am praying or doing devotions. I am meant to share my whole life with him, every aspect, and by being more intentional about this, he can be glorified and represented in moments or locations that otherwise would have been ignored. Before thewaygaming, I was selfish with my faith and with my time, reluctantly dipping my toes into this ministry has been eye opening. I have seen through this, the effectiveness of reaching out and extending a hand to the lost, rather than secretly hoping they find the way to the light on their own.

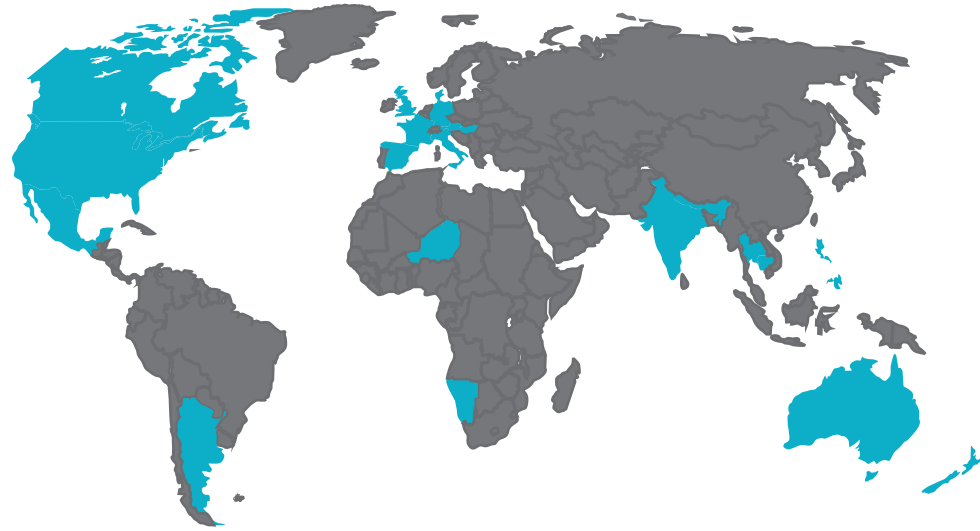
I would just want to encourage anyone who might feel the call tugging on them towards becoming more involved in a missional capacity. Sometimes when you aren't seeking the opportunity, the opportunity will find you anyways. Be diligent, pray about it. Now that I have seen how wide the scope of ministry can be applied, I truly believe that something like thewaygaming might only be scratching the surface of where we can reach those that are lost. Does it mean that everyone who we connect with will be saved, of course not. However I have seen friendships being built, dialogues being had, and lives being changed through this ministry, my own included. ”

— Mitch Mercier



Thank you to all those who serve and commit to using your resources of time, energy and finances for the benefit of people in our region and around the world.

DID YOU KNOW?



LOCATIONS OF ONLINE VIEWERS

As a part of our ministry we record and post each of our messages online, so those who miss the live service can always catch up. The map highlights different countries that have accessed our online archive.

These countries include:

Canada, United States, Philippines, Mexico, Australia, United Kingdom, Namibia, Nigeria, Spain, Croatia, Thailand, India, Germany, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Argentina, Austria, Indonesia and Italy.

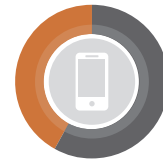


TOTAL VIEWS ON LIVE STREAM 17,463

Every week people tune in from all over the world to watch our services live. The top cities include Edmonton (8,262), Sherwood Park (2,639), Calgary (637), Leduc (464) and Burnaby (370).



Desktop 10,152



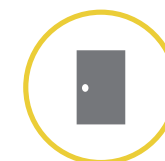
Mobile 7,311

SQUARE FEET OF SPACE IN OUR BUILDING



161,100

ROOMS WITHIN THE BUILDING



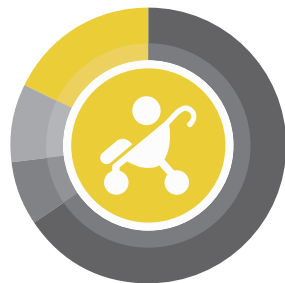
306





In Service 1,275

On average our weekend services connect over 1,200 people every week. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.



SonBurst 342

SonBurst is a place where kids get to know Jesus, feel they belong and have opportunities to serve. We are committed to partnering with you in the spiritual development of your kids.



Youth 178

SPAC Youth's vision is that every teenager in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region would collide with God's Kingdom. We want to lead teenagers towards a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and an increasing commitment to His mission.



Online 143

We have viewers connecting Online from places such as Croatia and Thailand!



Subscribed to Weekly Newsletter 1,776

eTouch is our weekly newsletter sent to a subscribed list of people from our church. It's intended to inspire and inform you.



New Members 36

Become part of this local body of Christ, committed to its unique calling.



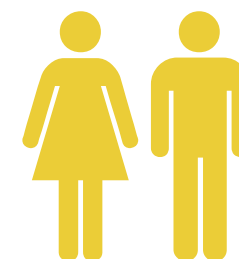
New International Workers 2

Commissioned a new partner couple, KR & Darlene Paton, to serve for a year in Thailand.



Christmas Eve Special Offering \$34,900

During our Christmas Eve services, money was raised to support Centre Point Church in Camrose, Education Grants for the Mustard Seed, and Women's Outreach with the Salvation Army.



People in Groups 700+

Ready to go deeper in your relationship with God or starting to explore matters of faith? Learning about what it means to live and love like Jesus is best practiced with others!

SonBurst Kids

The New Baby Ministry visit was so uplifting. It has helped me find community and that's so important as a new mom!

ANONYMOUS

GALLONS OF PAINT USED FOR CRAFTS



NEW BABY MINISTRY VISITS



As a new person to the church and new to faith-stepping into a volunteer role in SonBurst has been so great. I have brought my sister and my boyfriend to services now. I'm loving it and haven't missed a service yet!

SONBURST VOLUNTEER

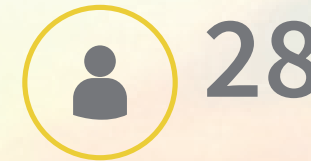
BIBLE MEMORY VERSES RECITED



CHILD DEDICATIONS



SADDLE LAKE DETOUR PARTICIPANTS



TOP 3 SONGS SUNG



Stop & Go
Super Wonderful
My Lighthouse



School of Discipleship

Sept 25 | A set of foundational courses were launched, designed for anyone who is hungry for God and wants to experience the life-changing message Jesus lived.



Guest Speaker & Prayer Workshop with Sunder Krishnan

Nov 26/27 | We were challenged to move deeper in with God's Spirit through prayer.



Solemn Assembly

Jan 9 | Our year started off with an intentional week of prayer.



Easter

Apr 14/15 | Jesus' death and resurrection are remembered through Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.



SonBurst Day Camps

July | There were 97 kids that registered for our summer Day Camps.



Baptisms

June 24/25 | People's faith journeys are milestone through baptism. Public displays of committing to Jesus are celebrated.



2016

2017



SCE Commissioning

Oct 29/30 | A team from our Elementary school prepares to go to Mexico. We commissioned them as a church.



Christmas Eve Services

Dec 23/24 | We celebrated Jesus' birth with four services and a special giving project. Over 3800 people come through our doors.



An Atheist and a Christian Walk into a Bar

Mar 11 | We engaged in a dialogue between Christian theologian Randal Rauser and atheist Justin Schieber as they talk about the differences between Christianity and Atheism.



Worship Nights

May 6 | Extended worship services are held in place of our regular Saturday night service.



Renew

July | Weekend services moved to the South Gym. Construction begins.



Youth

I love youth ministry! I get to do life with my girls (girls in my small group). It extends far beyond a Wednesday night - it's about being there for them during the ups and downs.

YOUTH LEADER

The excitement I felt when a student had an "a-ha" moment was none like I had ever felt before. After a night of wrestling and goofing off during small group, it led to a deep conversation. The movement of the Holy Spirit was so present.

YOUTH LEADER

EVENTS ON & OFF CAMPUS

 35

TOTAL SMALL GROUPS

 24

PIZZAS BOUGHT & EATEN

 147

DONATED TO NEIGHBOUR CENTRE

 17 BACKPACKS 16 COATS

25 UNDERWEAR 35 JEANS





SCA

Being a mentor has allowed me to think about the type of student and person I want to be. My goal is to inspire my mentee to be the best person she can be.

MENTOR-MENTEE STUDENT

Dear Grandparents, thank-you for praying for my son when he was in Israel. The obstacles he faced made things difficult and challenging. After the prayer request went out - things drastically changed for him. The answered prayers were so specific to his time there, it has become a life-changing experience for him.

MOM OF TRAVELING STUDENT

MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO EDUCATION CENTRE IN MEXICO

 **\$178,275**

2016 3A BOYS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

 **1st** VOLLEYBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCA HISTORY

MEMBERS IN PRAYING GRANDPARENTS MINISTRY

 **38**

MEALS SERVED AT MUSTARD SEED BY MISSIONAL LIVING CLASS

 **2800**

STUDENTS IN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

 **26**





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