



CHRIST THE KING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
AND YOUR GENEROSITY

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Join us as we
celebrate the work of
God in and through
Christ the King in
2018 and beyond.

FEBRUARY 3RD

Impact Report



A Letter From the Pastor

As I walked out of the sanctuary following our last Christmas Eve service in 2018, exhausted yet exhilarated, one thought kept coming into my mind: "Lord, you are doing amazing things in and through this church. Thank you for your faithfulness to us."

The Lord is, indeed, faithful. He promises to build his Church to such an extent that not even the gates of hell will be able to withstand its advance. He is doing that all over the world among every tribe and nation and language under heaven. And, yes, he is doing it here at Christ the King.

2018 was an exciting year in the life of our church, and it is my hope that we take this time to stop to celebrate the work of God in our midst. Sometimes it is hard to see what God is doing. I know in my own life that I can get so bogged down in just putting one foot in front of the other that I can forget that God is at work. But he is. He is at work in Christ the King and through Christ the King.

In Christ the King, God is binding us together more and more as a church family as we prioritize relationships and grow as disciples – those who follow Christ by knowing, applying, and living the Word of God. The stories and statistics in this report will remind us of that.

Through Christ the King God is impacting the lives of Houstonians and the lives of people all over the world with the gospel of grace. You are supporting church plants, missionaries and ministry initiatives like Boxes of Blessing that literally impacted thousands upon thousands of people in 2018. God is using this church as an instrument through which he transforms lives. The stories and statistics in this report will remind us of that.

Yes, we have much to celebrate, including the fact that God is not finished with us yet. So, as we pause to reflect on God's faithfulness to us and through us in 2018, let's renew our passion to reach Houston for Christ and renew lives by grace in 2019. That, indeed, is a vision worth being passionate about.

Yours for the King,



CLAY HOLLAND

Senior Pastor

IMPACT

- ❖ **491 PEOPLE ATTEND ON AN AVERAGE SUNDAY**
- ❖ **2,023 PEOPLE ATTENDED EASTER AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES**
- ❖ **263 FIRST-TIME GUESTS**
- ❖ **34 BAPTISMS:**
- ❖ **18 FIRST COMMUNIONS**



Children

In Children's Ministry we take the long view as we are planting tiny seeds of the gospel throughout an entire childhood one Bible story at a time and showing the love of Jesus one smile and kind word at a time.

Children ages birth through fifth grade make up over a third of Christ the King, making it one of the largest ministry arms of the church that continues to grow. The year 2018 was no exception with 20 new babies added to the rolls.

To summarize our year, we hosted 49 Sunday School classes, held 102 Children's Worship services, sent almost 30 graduating 5th graders to Student Ministry, led a Spectacular Summer filled with a children's camp, Wow Wednesdays, Vacation Bible School and a Crazy Olympics. We also sent final exam packages to all of our college students, packed Blessings in a Backpack, filled 142 bags with school supplies for Yellowstone and almost 200 bags of food for the East Spring Branch Food Pantry's Meal in a Bag Thanksgiving food drive.

Though Christ the King is home to beautiful facilities including an acclaimed indoor playground and is known for its fun, well thought-out events and service opportunities, these are not the essence of children's ministry. It is not about the best facilities, teaching an amazing lesson, or hosting a fabulous VBS, rather the bulk of children's ministry happens slowly, in less spectacular ways. It takes place over an entire childhood as church staff and volunteers, alongside parents, faithfully plant seeds of the gospel one small Bible story at a time and show the love of Jesus one smile and kind word at a time.

We pray that as children move from Children's Ministry to the Student Ministry we have sent them equipped with knowledge of the Bible and a love for their Savior and connected to a community of other believers that can walk through their middle and high school years with them.

IMPACT

- ❖ **442 KIDS ON OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL ROLLS FROM INFANT – 5TH GRADE**
- ❖ **AN AVERAGE OF 192 CHILDREN ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL EACH SUNDAY**
- ❖ **85 ADULT VOLUNTEERS CARE FOR OUR KIDS**
- ❖ **WE UTILIZE AROUND 37 VOLUNTEERS EACH SUNDAY**

VBS IMPACT

- ❖ **307 CHILDREN ATTENDED**
- ❖ **91 ADULT VOLUNTEERS**
- ❖ **52 JUNIOR COUNSELORS**
- ❖ **WE RAISED ENOUGH MONEY TO FILL 142 BAGS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR YELLOWSTONE ACADEMY**



Students

We walk with students through their middle and high school years to equip them for a lifetime of faithful dependence on the love of Jesus Christ.

Every parent is familiar with the pressures middle and high school students face each day. This season of immense opportunity and growth is also a time of anxiety and fear. We structure our ministry to give us as many chances as possible to befriend and walk with students, taking every opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ and teach the reliable truth of God's word.

Throughout 2018, we met with multiple small groups to enjoy time together, pray, and study scripture or discuss a book. Some of these small groups were made up of students who attend Christ the King, while others consisted of students we know from local schools or Young Life clubs. Many are a mixture of both.

We kicked off 2018 with our High School Ski Trip to Colorado. We also took students to Reformed Youth Ministry (RYM) Conferences in Texas and Colorado, where we enjoyed insightful teaching and beautiful times of worship with students from other churches around the country. We enjoyed time with middle school students on our spring Mystery Trip, summer Lake Trip, and Fall Weekend to Stoney Creek Ranch. These trips, alongside our events, service opportunities, and weekly gatherings, present special opportunities to apply the gospel to students' lives.

STATISTICS

- ❖ **119 STUDENTS ON OUR ROLLS**
- ❖ **OVER 200 FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS EACH MONTH**
- ❖ **102 STUDENTS IN WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS**
- ❖ **39 STUDENTS ON AVERAGE IN ATTENDANCE EACH SUNDAY MORNING**
- ❖ **SEVERAL NEW VOLUNTEER LEADERS, FOR A TOTAL OF 14**
- ❖ **15 SMALL GROUPS MET AROUND THE CITY EACH WEEK**
- ❖ **OVER 600 HOURS OF SERVICE WITH OUR MISSION PARTNERS**
- ❖ **115 STUDENTS ATTENDED TRIPS**



Adults

We are committed to living life together as we study God's Word, serve the city and one another, and follow Jesus.

In a city as large and complex as Houston, we know the unique challenge of forming deep-rooted relationships with other adults, which is why we have placed an emphasis on building relationships at Christ the King. In 2018, our Sunday morning classes provided a place for adults to gather in a smaller setting alongside those the same age or in the same season of life, growing in their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, and building friendships that extend beyond Sunday morning. Longtime members and new members alike saw relationships at Christ the King grow because of these Sunday morning classes, encouraging one another and caring for each other amidst shared seasons of life as they were taught together by the pastoral staff. In these smaller settings, visitors were able to more easily form relationships with members of the church on Sunday mornings, and we were overjoyed to see many visitors decide to become members in 2018.

Our adult Bible studies continued to flourish, with over 220 men and women gathering in small groups across Houston to study God's Word. These groups studied together, prayed for each other, and disciplined one another, often taking time to gather as a group or meet one-on-one outside of the meetings. Adults who have been Christians for decades studied the Bible alongside those who were new in their faith, faithfully encouraging one another with the hope of the gospel as they applied biblical truths to their everyday lives

Men were able to connect with one another outside of Sunday morning through a variety of events, such as the Men's Steak Night and the Men's Monthly Gathering. During the Men's Monthly Gathering, pastors regularly spoke on a variety of topics ranging from church history to how and what God calls us to in the workplace. At events like the Women's Spring Gathering and the Advent Celebration, women shared their experiences of how God's grace met them during various seasons of life, allowing them to get to know one another's stories and to be encouraged by what God has been doing in the lives of his people. The Women's Summer Gathering was a fun evening for women to reconnect amidst the

busyness of summer and spend time deepening relationships with women outside their Bible study group, Parish, or Sunday morning class.

2018 was the first full year of Parishes at Christ the King, which provided a framework for intentional relationship building, mission and mercy, prayer, and shepherding. Adults came alongside one another and served our Mission Partners in their parishes, laying the groundwork for relationships between parishes and Mission Partners that will continue to grow. More members than ever before were able to build relationships with their shepherding elder and with members who live in the same area of Houston, gathering in groups and meeting one on one. Parish members spent the year getting to know one another better, praying for each other, bringing meals to one another when needs arose, and so much more. As a direct result of Parishes, every member of the church was prayed for by the elders during 2018 and shepherding was able to take place within a relational context as elders walked alongside members of their parish through various seasons of life. Ministry is a process and we are thankful for what the Lord has already done through Parishes at Christ the King in such a short amount of time. As we continue to strive for what God calls us to, we are excited to see Parishes continue to become an important part of life at Christ the King.

STATISTICS

- 60 NEW ADULT MEMBERS
- 226 ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN BIBLE STUDIES
- 6 PARISH SERVICE PROJECTS
30% INCREASE IN SUNDAY
- MORNING CLASS ATTENDANCE



Worship

Artistic mediums like music, poetry, and painting exist to help us glorify and enjoy God in worship by helping us taste, see, hear, feel, and smell that the Lord is good.

Central to the ministry of Christ the King is the calling to renew lives through weekly worship as a community. The arts play a key role in allowing the church to experience the mystery of the divine each week through the beauty of music, spoken word, video, painting, and architecture; through the positioning of our bodies in confession and receiving blessing; and through tasting and smelling physical elements in partaking of the Lord's Supper. Wedding artistic mediums to all elements of the worship experience allows each person to more fully experience the richness and mystery of the gospel.

2018 provided many opportunities for the arts to renew lives by enhancing worship, opening up new avenues for hearts and minds to be engaged. Besides the addition of new visual elements on-screen and the incorporation of stories through video, Christ the King unveiled another commissioned art piece for the enVision sermon series. Of the eight songs introduced to the congregation, two were composed by musicians leading worship each Sunday. The Hymn Sing provided a way to more fully experience rich traditional hymnody with the unique experience of singing in-the-round. Musical arrangements created for the Christ the King ensemble were shared with and used by many churches of various denominations throughout Houston and across the country. In an effort to connect people with visual and technical gifts to the life and work of the church, a team was created for volunteers to work in video recording and multimedia. In addition to all of these developments, Christ the King partnered with the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship and Fuller Seminary in bringing together songwriters from across the city of Houston to create new songs and liturgies for the Advent and Christmas seasons, giving composers time and space to create new art.

In Psalm 34, there is an artistic metaphor: to taste and see that the Lord is good; and by extension, to hear, to feel, and to smell the goodness of God. The continued goal of worship is to allow each person to experience a deeper relationship with our loving, just, benevolent God.

STATISTICS

- **MUSIC TEAM VOLUNTEERS: 19**
- **MEDIA TEAM VOLUNTEERS: 13**
- **PROFESSIONAL STAFF MUSICIANS: 8**
- **NUMBER OF SONGS SUNG IN WORSHIP: 129**
- **NUMBER OF NEW SONGS ADDED TO THE ROTATION: 8**



Mission

Artistic mediums like music, poetry, and painting exist to help us glorify and enjoy God in worship by helping us taste, see, hear, feel, and smell that the Lord is good.

Our vision to Reach Houston for Christ and Renew Lives by Grace is being accomplished in and through Christ the King every single day! As a church of Jesus Christ, we believe God has called us on a mission of cosmic renewal and restoration to be a foretaste of his coming kingdom where there is hope, wholeness, and abundance. The Gospel is the good news that, in Jesus, God has reconciled us to himself by acting generously, sacrificially, and graciously toward us, a spiritually poor and helpless people. Therefore, his grace compels us to serve and meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and social needs around us.

One of the primary ways we extended God's kingdom in 2018 was through participating in acts of mercy and justice. We partnered with and strengthened almost 20 local Christian organizations serving the poor and marginalized in our city. As partners, we seek to serve them and their work, and in turn, they help us develop as God's kingdom people. For Serve Day 2018, over 20 of our members came together to serve our friends at Oaklawn Presbyterian and Agape Development to complete large projects which will help them serve their communities more effectively. We also opened a new lay role in our parishes called Parish Mission Coordinator. Together with their parishes, over 100 of our members served in 6 service projects last fall all across our city through our partners Star of Hope, Work-Faith Connection, The Source for Women, RUF, Little Lights, and others. Several hundred of our members came together in December and invited their friends to put together over 6,800 boxes to feed thousands of families through Boxes of Blessing. Finally, as you've read throughout this booklet, children and students were given opportunities throughout the year to love and care for the needs of our city, including students serving 600 hours with our partners and children filling almost 200 bags of food for the East Spring Branch Food Pantry's Thanksgiving drive.

We supported the work of 12 mission teams in 7 strategic global cities and countries: SE Asia; the Middle East; Berlin, Germany; Perth, Australia; Bogota, Colombia; Monterrey, Mexico; Nosy Be, Madagascar. We also support regional leadership in Europe, SE Asia, and Central/South America. We welcomed missionaries from Colombia and Berlin in 2018, giving them opportunities to share their work and encourage us in our own vision for our city. We also sent a young couple from our congregation to pursue short-term mission in Nosy Be, Madagascar.

Finally, we were able to support 6 RUF interns, including 4 from our congregation; PCA Hispanic American Church Planting Ministries (which is seeing exciting growth in the PCA!); and gave one-time grants for much-needed property improvements to LifeHouse, YouthReach, and our new partner which opened in 2018, Harbor Christian Academy in the 5th Ward.

STATISTICS

- **\$500,000+ TO LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL PARTNERS**
- **12 MISSION TEAMS IN 7 STRATEGIC GLOBAL CITIES AND COUNTRIES**
- **19 LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS ENGAGED IN MERCY & JUSTICE FOR OUR CITY**
- **15+ CHURCH PLANTS THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST CHURCH PLANTING NETWORK**
- **800 VOLUNTEERS PUT TOGETHER 6,300 BOXES OF BLESSING TO SUPPORT 39 LOCAL PARTNERS**



Preschool

We believe that all children are a gift from God, created in the image of God for his glory and that the years of early childhood provide a unique opportunity to encourage, inspire and establish strong educational practices and lay the foundation for a life of faith in Christ according to biblical principles.

Our first two years have been an amazing testament of God's faithfulness. We are grateful for the families who have joined us and for the devoted teachers God has provided to encourage children in a love for learning and a lifetime of knowing Jesus.

We are also thankful for the support of church members who have prayed for this ministry as well as those who have served in the program from the pastors who lead chapel each week to the friends teaching Bible stories, providing art lessons and working with our children in the garden exploring God's creation outdoors!

We have celebrated the birth of Jesus and our promised King in a Christmas pageant and have walked the steps to the Resurrection in a special Easter event.

We have learned about famous artists and re-created our own Matisse cut-outs and Monet waterlilies on display in our art gallery.

We have toiled in our garden outside and waited patiently as the tiniest seeds grew into the tallest plants hiding treasures in the dirt for us to pull – carrots at last! And have grown sunflowers bigger than Pastor Taylor!

Mostly we have learned how deeply loved we are by God as evidenced by our offertory performance at church as we joined Joe Deegan to sing, "The Lord Loves His Children More Than We Know – oh, oh, oh, oh!"

Parents often thank us for "loving their children", and say they feel "cared for and ministered to by Christ the King". We are deeply grateful to hear that because our goal each day is to exhibit and to teach that we love because he first loved us. We believe that all children are a gift from God and

that the years of early childhood provide a unique opportunity to encourage, inspire and establish strong educational practices and lay the foundation for a life of faith in Christ. We look forward to what God has planned in the years to come!

The 2018-19 Preschool Team: Katie Whitehead, Catie Brow, Cully Bakht, Ruth Cagle, Michelle Hays, Rebecca Knapp, Elizabeth Russell, and Margaret Murphy.

STATISTICS

- 34 PRESCHOOL STUDENTS
- PLANTED 4 SEASONS OF CROPS
- HATCHED AND RELEASED 12 MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
- LEARNED 26 BIBLE VERSES
- CONDUCTED 220 SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS
- READ 1140 STORIES
- CREATED 3040 MASTERPIECES OF ART
- AND RODE 30,400 LAPS AROUND THE TRICYCLE PATH!



Counseling

The Christ the King Counseling Center exists to help people find healing, meaning, and hope for their lives and relationships through the power of the Gospel in counseling, groups, training, and events.

Christ the King Counseling Center launched in 2017 as a dream of the leadership of Christ the King to offer Christ-centered counseling to members at Christ the King and the Houston community. Our counselors, Katie Ashby, Caroline McKee, and Leslie Peacock offer professional counseling to children, adolescents, adults, and couples, addressing issues related to relationships, parenting, depression, anxiety, abuse, trauma, and career as well as many others.

Many members of Christ the King and our surrounding communities have benefited from the safe and trusting environment counseling provides to understand, process, and grow in the particular story God is writing in our lives. Christ the King Counseling Center partners with many churches in Houston as well, and we have the joy of serving hundreds of individuals and families in our great city.

Oftentimes, lasting growth and change in our lives comes through our relationships with others. To that end, Christ the King Counseling Center offers counseling groups to help cultivate relationships as a resource to change our hearts and our lives. In Spring 2018, 18 women participated in Addressing Anxiety, a group aimed at developing skills and gaining support in the battle against anxiety. In January 2019 we are launching new counseling groups including Relate Strong for couples and Boundaries for women.

Christ the King Counseling Center also hosts training events and conferences throughout the year to equip our church and community to integrate biblical principles and practical issues. In April, Dr. John Cox returned to teach How to Change, a conference on how we grow personally and relationally in Christ. Over 200 Christ the King members and guests attended and we are

excited for Dr. Cox to return to teach Parenting Little Ones on March 29-30, 2019.

In September 2018, the Counseling Center hosted Protecting Young Hearts, a seminar to equip parents to guard against the negative effects of pornography in the family. Over 100 Christ the King members and guests attended and we look forward to many more seminars and training events to equip our congregation in particular counseling issues.

STATISTICS

- **18 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN ADDRESSING ANXIETY**
- **OVER 200 CHRIST THE KING MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED HOW TO CHANGE**
- **OVER 100 CHRIST THE KING MEMBERS AND GUESTS**
- **ATTENDED PROTECTING YOUNG HEARTS**

