

2015

WACC

ANNUAL REPORT



DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS



“ALL-IN”

This was the statement that the Board and Pastors rallied behind during our 2015 Leadership Retreat. We continue to be “all-in” in our work here at WACC to serve Him here in our community.

GROWTH FOR WACC

Average weekly attendance at our worship services increased remarkably. Consider this: last year, our lowest monthly attendance was actually higher than the highest monthly attendance in 2014. Over one hundred individuals took the next step in joining our family to become new members of WACC.

STAFF CHANGES

To meet the needs of our growing congregation, we have been hiring. In 2015, we hired an Executive Pastor (Steve Cazares), a Pastor of Congregational Care (Nina Dohoda), a Pastor for Junior High Ministries (Christian Martinez), a Pastor of College & Young Adult Ministries (Chris Cox), and a Pastor of Small Groups & Welcome Ministries (Jared Powell). Each of these appointments was made with a prayerful rigor that is often not apparent to those not directly involved in the search process. And our pastors are supported by an incredible staff that works tirelessly to help the WACC family grow in their relationship with Christ.

FISCAL SOUNDNESS FOR WACC

We have been so abundantly blessed by the congregation that gives generously. WACC has no debt. The mortgage for our campus expansion project was paid off ahead of schedule due to this generosity! Our annual budget was increased 8%. The support for our missionaries was increased by 10%. We were able to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for our pastors and staff. Our 2015 financial audit was clean and without any issues.

BOARD HEALTH AT WACC

As I reflect on our times together as a Board, the following words come to mind: Unity, without uniformity. This means we all bring different perspectives to the table, we feel safe enough, represent the different voices of the members (that elected us), and we get to a place of complete unity – we speak and act as one so that the best interests of God’s will of WACC is discerned. I have worked with a lot of teams, and this particular team has to be one of the best-functioning, positive and supportive groups that I have ever had the privilege to be a part of. 2016 will be a great year for WACC! Our congregation continues to grow. The worship services are near capacity and a lot of creative work is being done to provide a seat for every person who wants to be a part of our family. We are free of debt – our finances are strong. I believe 2016 will be year of continued abundant blessings, along with Open Doors to prayerfully walk through.

It has been an honor to serve as a pastor at WACC this past year. 2015 was a year of momentum in which God's work has been evident on so many different levels. Throughout the year, the passage that I personally came back to time and time again was Isaiah 43:18-19. Through the prophet, God's message to his people was: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

LIFE - CHANGE

Friends, God truly did a new thing in our midst in 2015. This new thing was evident to me in the life-change we saw throughout our church. 189 people were baptized in the year. Our worship services grew by 23%, as many of you invited your friends and family into our congregation. Over 300 people joined community groups and Bible studies where they connected and grew spiritually. Some of you have told me that you have "found a new family" in these small groups. And over 205 people began using their gifts to serve through WACC ministries. Each of these are incredible examples of the new thing God has begun in our midst.

GENEROSITY

This new thing has also been exemplified to me in the generosity that has been put on display. WACC was able to bless almost 200 families and individuals through its Benevolent Fund this year. WACC gave \$328,113 to care for children in Malawi, refugee families, and those in our community experiencing homelessness. And through the tremendous generosity of some WACC members, WACC paid off the mortgage that it has been carrying.

UNITY

Finally, God's new work at WACC has been exemplified to me in the unity that is building. In the fall, many of you told me you were going to stop dating the church and were committed to going "All-In" at WACC. WACC also welcomed five new pastors into positions this past year. In the midst of the change and transition on the staff, the WACC team pursued health and unity in 2015, and is as strong as I have ever seen it.

NEW DOORS

Friends, I continue to be so humbled to have the opportunity to serve you, to teach God's Word, and to watch God do His new thing in our church and community. May we continue be obedient and courageous to walk through the new doors Jesus opens for us in 2016. I'm excited to continue fulfilling our mission together- to Follow God, to Love People, and to Change the World.

"I just love being at church, with my community group, at the Well, and even the Financial Peace class members. God is Love and love is all around us." - WACC Attendee

"The Lord definitely has his hands on our church and I see a great future..." - WACC Member

"We love what's been happening at our church!" - WACC Member

God has moved in us and through us in dramatic ways over the course of the last year. We learned about God's love and how to better follow Him through well over 200 Sunday Services. Our love for each other expanded across our area through new Community Groups that were launched in homes. Our largest volunteer base ever was mobilized both on our campus and throughout this whole city to spread the everlasting love of Jesus!

OUR SINGING

In 2015, we experienced an increase in participation and excitement in our singing. New songs like NO LONGER SLAVES and GOOD, GOOD FATHER swell our hearts and love for our heavenly Father. Recently in one of our Guest Connect gatherings I met Steve Mitchell who shared that God has changed his heart. He doesn't know how it happened, but it did. He used to struggle with the music at WACC, but he prayed that God would help him reshape his perspective. God did and now the music is one of the things that he looks forward to every week. Me too, Steve!

EASTER ON THE LAWN

It was incredible seeing families serve together to set up thousands of chairs for Easter on the Lawn. Hundreds of people walked through those doors of hope that day and many of them chose to get baptized in their Easter best!

SUMMER VBS

No other worship leading opportunity has ever been as fulfilling as was leading our young students and volunteers in the celebration of God's love this last summer. We sang, we danced, we jumped and it was so much fun. The music included a new arrangement of WE CELEBRATE YOUR GOODNESS and a new original song called YOUR LOVE, which is now a part of our song list for Sundays.

CHRISTMAS EVE

A huge thanks to all of the volunteers who made our Christmas Celebration so amazing. The Orchestra, the Adult Choir, our Elementary Choir – multiple generations of our church singing and celebrating the birth of Jesus! It was an incredible team effort from our skilled Technical Artists and also Band Members including Sol Rodriguez! Sol knows first hand the pain the holidays can bring. Seeing him play Miraculum so skillfully on his electric guitar was simply astonishing.

MY JOURNEY

Finally, the personal growth that I have gone through in the last year, shaped by the need for vocal surgery in late April, was unexpected and very difficult for me spiritually. It's through the trials that God often teaches us the most. Slowly and continually we are being transformed by the un-ending love of our Father. Let the journey continue!

WACC engaged in our Core Value of Celebration through generous serving and giving globally in 2015! It is because of your generosity that our Global missions continued its strong commitment to sharing Christ's message of hope and love through strategic partnerships around the world in 2015, including these highlights:

SHORT-TERM TRIPS

In 2015, our short-term missionaries consisted of families, teams, and individuals going to: downtown L.A., Arizona, Estonia, Sweden, Romania, Mexico, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Malawi, India, Spain, Cuba, Ecuador and Peru to share the love of Christ.

MISSIONS DINNER

We had a wonderful response by our congregation at the annual Missions Dinner to support our 2015 short-term missionaries.

NORDIC-BALTIC REGION

In church planting, we supported a new church plant in Tallinn, Estonia. For leadership training, we hosted the Global Leadership Summit with 400 people and our seventh Pastor's Summit to encourage discouraged Pastors. For youth ministry, we supported English camps, youth soccer leagues, and youth outreach programs. Our partnership with New Life Church yielded two new church plants in Stockholm County. We also sent three teachers to the Baltic Pastoral Institute in Latvia, held several leadership training events in Finland, and are currently designing a systematic program of Christian Education for our Estonian churches.

CHANGES WITH OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

In 2015, we recommissioned several global partners, as they returned to the field after serving in the States for several years: Vurbeffs to France, Lamberts to Japan, and the Parkers to the Republic of Congo. The Morgans transitioned from short-term to long-term missionaries. The Kooimans ended their service in Romania and will be headed to Germany in 2016. We accepted Justin and Callene Ross as our new global partners. They will be serving in the Four Corners region of the U.S. with a ministry in aviation.

VISITS FROM GLOBAL PARTNERS

We were blessed to connect with 27 of our Global Partners and their families during their time at WACC, as well as with Davidson Chifungo and John Gash with Y-Malawi and John Van Dinther and Jenny from New Life in Sweden.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

You gave the highest offering since the "Malawi Miracle" ten years ago! This helped bring much needed funds to support efforts to address the hunger and economic crisis in Malawi, homelessness locally, and the refugee crisis worldwide.

VBS OFFERING

Our children raised more than \$4,270 to help fund Bible clubs in Malawi with our Y-Malawi partner, "Fishers, Trainers, Senders".

OFFERINGS

Short-term Missions Offering: \$22,922
Thanksgiving Offering: \$35,522
Christmas Offering: \$328,113

"There are not adequate words to express our thankfulness for WACC during our time of furlough and transition. We have felt welcomed-from baskets for our kids, gift cards, and words of encouragement to our MET and others opening their lives to us during this year. Our kids have felt this love and this acceptance in their classes, teams, and events. WACC's continued financial support during this time was crucial for our survival here as well. The most important aspect has been the emotional support from Rebecca as she took the time to lean into our lives and our pain and to hear our story-there is no greater gift." - Heather Kooiman, OC International

We believe that as a grateful response to God's grace, we have the opportunity to respond generously together by going into the community to serve. As we serve, our hope is to be responsive, relational, and ultimately assist in the redemptive work that he is doing. We feel thankful that God changes us while we join him in changing the world.

CITY-WIDE SERVE WEEKEND

In partnership with thirty-five plus churches, we spent a weekend serving the city, ultimately to strengthen the relationship we have with the city and to support local non-profits and their clients. We celebrated Serve Weekend at a combined church worship service in Central Park, where John Riley spoke to the crowd about living missionally daily.

WHITTIER AREA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

This event drew 400 cars and thousands of people as it served as both an outreach event and a fundraiser for Serve Weekend and local nonprofits!

JUSTICE CONFERENCE

We hosted a satellite site and gathered for a day of listening to engaging and challenging speakers, to learn more about how we can live justly.

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

In collaboration with the Serve Whittier churches, we hosted a Homelessness Symposium, where many different agencies in the city gathered to discuss current issues. As a result, a Whittier Consortium dealing with Whittier's homelessness was established to address the needs of our city and plans will be moving forward this year.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AGENCIES

This gave our church opportunities to serve, like members coming alongside an elderly person with Health Partnership, serving at Interfaith Food Center's Thanksgiving food distribution, and joining with Prison Fellowship to provide families of Angel Tree gifts and a party. Many of you assisted at the Cold Weather Shelter, First Day Coalition, Salvation Army TLC, and more. Many worked tirelessly to provide a back-to-school clothing event for families transitioning out of homelessness.

UNION RESCUE MISSION (URM)

Participants on this quarterly trip stay overnight on the URM rooftop, serve in the kitchen and in the mission, and pray on the street. Those who have gone on this trip have shared that the experience has been eye opening and life-changing. As we look back on 2015, we feel appreciative of God's generous and gracious love that we have been honored to share with others. Our prayer is to continue to be messengers of this love over this next year as we share God's story with others.

"Union Rescue Mission is making such an impact on Skid Row, you come back wanting to love more and serve more." - Nickie Fox

Our goal is to empower and equip the church to serve together as the body of Christ with every opportunity that we facilitate. We committed ourselves to offer clear expectations, guidance, and support for the significant role that every volunteer plays in each WACC ministry.

VISION

The idea of a ministry dedicated to the mobilization of the church first came up at the tail end of 2014 and began to take form and come to life in 2015. The vision was to develop an infrastructure that would make disciples and mobilize the congregation towards both service in the church and a life of mission in our local context.

MADE FOR

We created a curriculum and called it "Made For" to share with over 200 people in small groups, at workshops for individuals, at Alpha, and in a special Jr. High and High School Ministry summer series in order to affirm the ways God has uniquely made each believer for His kingdom purposes.

MOBILIZATION TEAM

A Mobilization Team formed and met monthly to discuss ways of further empowering the congregation to serve and grow spiritually.

VOLUNTEER PROCESS

We developed an "ASK. EQUIP. VALUE." model for volunteer management in every ministry and streamlined the processing of volunteer forms to reduce the number of people slipping through the cracks.

SPECIAL EVENT VOLUNTEERS

For special occasions like Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas Eve, we asked the church to serve at a service as well as attend. Hundreds responded and took part in varying ways from behind the scenes prep, to greeting, or joining the prayer team.

GIVE YOUR TIME

We were able to communicate more consistently and comprehensively the needs of all ministries and the community by compiling a monthly list of service opportunities in a flyer called Give Your Time. The list serves as a testament to the vast work God is doing through the gifts and willing hands of our church.

COMMUNITY GROUP MOBILIZATION

More and more community groups and Bible studies are asking for ways to serve together and by the close of 2015, over 250 people began volunteering on a regular basis who were not already serving in another WACC ministry.

"My husband and I volunteering and being of service this year has truly been a reward and [it was] God's calling to do his works this holiday season. Going forward this 2016 we intend to incorporate volunteering and keep us in mind with needs you may have use for us at WACC."
- Donna Martinez

As part of WACC's Core Value of Exploration, Care Ministry gives people a safe place to explore God's story and discover what it means to pursue Christ together. Below are some of the ways our church shows Christ's love and mercy, and cares for the Body of Christ.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Eighty-eight individuals chose to make WACC their spiritual home and became official members of WACC this year. When asked why he was joining now, one man replied, "It's time. I love this church. It's my home and I want to commit to growing and serving at WACC."

COMMUNION TEAM

The Lord's Supper was faithfully served every month by over 100 WACC members who volunteer on the Communion team.

BAPTISM

Through baptism, we publicly profess that we are followers of Jesus. 189 people were baptized at WACC in 2015, including 117 individuals who were baptized on the lawn at Easter.

HOME VISITATION

Every Monday morning, a group of dedicated, faithful people led by Curt Fauth made home visits to those who are no longer able to attend church on a regular basis. These home visitations are for the purpose of encouraging our congregants by reminding them that they are dearly loved by God and their church family.

CHAPLAINS

Chaplains are a team of fifteen ministers trained to go into the community to provide care to people experiencing some of the most difficult circumstances in life. Chaplains also bring hope and encouragement into the environments they visit.

CALLING TEAM

The Calling Team, under the direction of Jim Fletcher, continued to reach out and make contact with individuals by phone, letting people know that WACC cares about them, giving encouragement, responding to concerns and taking prayer requests back to WACC staff.

PRAYER TEAM & CARE CARDS

Prayer Teams met every week on Wednesdays from 12-2pm and Thursdays at 7pm to faithfully pray for and write Care Cards for our congregation's petitions. Prayer Team members were also available to pray with congregants on Sundays after each service.

COMPASSIONATE CUISINE FOR CHRIST

Many WACC families were blessed and encouraged by receiving an occasional meal during a time of illness or the arrival of a new baby. Dana Smith, Jody Smith and Maxine Caudillo direct this ministry of loving care to our congregation.

BENEVOLENCE

Benevolent assistance was provided to many members of our congregation and community through the generosity of benevolent giving by our congregation. This included a Christmas blessing to twenty-seven underprivileged children and 181 widows who attend WACC.

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

FHF, through the leadership of Jack and Barbara Haney, supported unemployed and underemployed families with financial assistance and/or gift cards for food, bills, and gasoline, also daily expenses, emergency car repairs and other emergency needs, such as dental expenses, school shoes, and school supplies.

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

WACC Pastors and Care team members had the privilege of participating in and officiating many weddings for members of our congregation. We also came alongside many families who experienced significant losses of loved ones in 2015 by facilitating and directing funerals and memorial services at WACC.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

The loss of family and/or friends has a tremendous impact on how we anticipate the holiday season. Lidy Caldera led individuals through this program designed to look at grief and how to prepare for the holidays and family time.

SUPPORT AND RECOVERY GROUPS

2015 marked the seventh year of support and recovery groups meeting at WACC without missing a single Monday night. Monday nights at WACC are a safe place for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits to find acceptance and encouragement through our Christ-centered support groups. The Sanctuary averaged 100 people in attendance per week. In 2015 our groups included Celebrate Recovery for men and women, Never Give Up for women, Lose It for Life, Grief Share, Prisoner's Family Support Group, Men's Issues Group, Men's Purity Group, Overcoming Our Emotional Challenges, Christian Codependence Recovery and Betrayal and Beyond for women.

"Many thanks to the staff at WACC for how my husband's Memorial Service was handled. The service was beautiful and above and beyond what I expected." - Anonymous

2015 was an exciting year for the Exploration team at WACC because a new ministry launched offering a place for people to follow Jesus together, Community Groups. Community Groups are small groups of people committed to growing as followers of Jesus by connecting relationally, engaging scripture, praying together, and responding generously in service. Community Groups are a place to live out the Core Value of Exploration. Community Groups are also a place of movement from hearing God's story on Sundays (Narration) to using our gifts in service (Celebration).

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE BOOK

The Community Group Guidebook was produced which outlines what Community Groups are all about. This beautiful book explains how the growth movement works, what expectations are for participants and leaders, and the format and structure for meetings.

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

26 leaders were recruited and provided training for how to lead their Community Groups in sermon-based discussion, build meaningful relationships, and create an environment where people can grow together.

COMMUNITY GROUP LAUNCH

In our first fall season of Community Groups, we were overwhelmed with the excitement of people wanting to take this next step in their spiritual journey. Over 250 people signed up to join a Community Group in the first season and we look forward to even more people seeking to grow in the future.

COMMUNITY GROUPS IN SERVICE

Many of our Community Groups processed how they can serve together within their community. Some groups committed themselves to service by doing things like supporting youth ministries and working the Cold Weather Shelter.

STORY –

David and Brenda Carrizosa are an amazing couple who have been attending WACC for many years. After hearing about the start of Community Groups, they decided to step out in faith and lead a group. God has worked in and through them to do some amazing things.

David has always been reserved when it comes to praying in front of others. One night in their Community Group, David decided to step out of his comfort zone and pray out loud. His decision to lead by example was not just a huge step for him in his prayer life, but the following week another gentleman in the group prayed out loud for the first time. The very next week one more gentleman in the group decided to pray for the first time as well. God used each one of them to encourage and draw out the next.

This amazing story is just one of the many things happening in David and Brenda's group. They have also had two people go through the Membership Class, one person is getting baptized at the beginning of the next year, and one person is very new to going to church, but it has been in this Community Group that they heard what the Gospel really is. Perhaps the most special is that everyone in their group is very new to WACC and have been plugged into the church family.

The purpose of On Campus Small Groups is to build a biblical community and help people grow in their personal relationship with Jesus by following WACC's Core Value of Exploration. This is done on campus through Alpha, Bible Study, Adult Sunday Classes, Teaching, Financial Peace and the Practice of Spiritual Disciplines. (Matthew 22:37-40)

ALPHA

Alpha provides an opportunity for folks to explore Christianity in a relaxed setting over a meal and non-threatening setting. Since launching Alpha at WACC in the fall of 2012, we have had seven successful courses. There is a group of strong Alpha leaders at WACC and they are continually committed to the program. Relationships continue to be developed and have continued to grow as participants continue to meet in Community Groups and Bible studies after their Alpha experience. God continues to bless this ministry and it is evident in the small groups that bond during each course. Spiritual needs and gifts are identified at the end of each course. Many stressed their desire to grow in knowing how to study the Bible, pray, and accountability in their Christian walk. God is doing amazing things through the Alpha Course here at WACC.

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible study continues to flourish at WACC on and off campus! Approximately 350 people attend Bible studies at WACC throughout each week to explore God's Word in small groups. Participants meet in Bible Study small groups including The Well Bible Study, Sunday Morning Bible Study and Monday Morning Men's Bible Study and the MOB, just to name a few. Each week men and women gathered in small groups for community, worship, teaching and discussion. God is doing great things through helping people go deeper in exploring His Word.

ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

Eight Adult Sunday Classes continued to meet weekly on our campus community and to go deeper into God's word. Groups faithfully support Missionaries in the field with monthly donations and also host missionaries when they return home.

FINANCIAL PEACE

This is a ministry started by Dave Ramsey. It is a vital tool in helping individuals and families learn how to be better stewards of their money. This course ran two times during 2015 and has blessed many.

Thank you to all who have selflessly served as Bible Study Leaders, Alpha Team members, Adult Sunday Class presidents and leaders and Financial Peace leaders throughout 2015... you are so appreciated!

Alpha is one of the most giving and welcome studies I've attended. The atmosphere is so welcome and relaxed. The leaders of the group are friendly and knowledgeable. -Elizabeth

Alpha has made a big impact in my life and my relationship with God. - Laura

Bible Study has changed my life and I'm not sure what I would do without it. -Jennifer

2 Corinthians 3:18: And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Welcome Team's goal is for our church to be the most welcoming place in town. We strive to love people like we are welcoming them home. From the time people park to when they walk into the Worship Center, volunteers are serving in a variety of functions so every person has a wonderful experience. The Welcome team plays a vital role in our Sunday gatherings.

WELCOME CENTER

The Welcome Center was launched after Easter 2015. Located on the north side of building A, the Welcome Center is a place for visitors, regular attenders, and members to find information and be the first point of connection to WACC's ministries.

WELCOMING GUESTS AND FIRST TIME ATTENDEES

A free gift for first time visitors was given out at the Welcome Center. This gift included a WACC logo drinking cup, letter from John Riley, and next steps card which explained our core values of Narration, Exploration, and Celebration.

5PM SERVICE

The launch of the 5pm Sunday night service saw a new group of volunteers commit to greeting and ushering.

STORY –

Phil is an usher. He has a wonderful welcoming personality and he serves faithfully each week. Phil took the time to notice people. One day he took notice of a man and asked him his name. Being noticed was just what this guy needed that Sunday morning. The man opened up to Phil on the spot sharing what was happening in his life. Phil listened and made a guest feel valued as if it was Jesus ushering that day.

As weeks passed, Phil had not seen his new friend. Then one day, in Phil's community group, he shared about his experience that Sunday and how he has been praying that this man would return. What a surprise it was when someone in Phil's group spoke up that he knew who that man was that Phil met that day. The gentleman was impacted by Phil, but that following week after visiting WACC he had a stroke and was not in the best of situations. Upon hearing this news, Phil and another small group member went and visited the man in the hospital to show him some well needed love. Truly God was at work.

New Horizons is a ministry for individuals who are 55 and older, comprised of energetic, enthusiastic, caring people. New Horizons follows God and loves people by providing opportunities for service, education, outreach, fellowship and fun. The New Horizons Administrative Team is a dedicated group of volunteers led by Larry Naples. Under their direction, the following events and activities took place in 2015:

ADULT CENTER

Adult Center is foundational to New Horizons and is an incredible program for our church, as well as a great outreach opportunity to the community. It is a place of support and friendship. Under the direction of Oscar Kreis, the program begins with worship, devotion and announcements. Participants then move into other various enrichment activities. Adult Center is designed to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of seniors and at its core, is a way to connect people to community with the purpose and hope of sharing the Gospel. Adult Center gives senior adults the opportunity to meet with God and friends in an environment of support and friendship. Adult Center classes in 2015 included oil painting, computer instruction, scrapbooking, watercolor basics, current events, creative and life writing, knitting and crocheting, genealogy, fabric fun, table games and tablet instruction.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

New Horizons Monthly Activities and Events are planned and led by Sharon Shutes, Bev Busch and committee members. The opportunities to engage with other adults in 2015 included a Movie and Pie night, Dinner with guest speaker historical impressionist Peter Small, trips to the Gene Autry Museum, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Curtis Theater, the summertime New Horizons picnic at Craig Park, and the Deck the Halls Christmas program at Cal State Fullerton.

WACC WALKERS

The WACC Walkers prioritize their physical health along with their spiritual well-being. The walkers met Thursday mornings at pre-designated locations to walk, talk, laugh and encourage. Linda Walvoord led a group on a walking excursion every Thursday at 9am. Past walks have included the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Laguna Lake, the Juanita Cooke trail in Fullerton and Schabarum Regional Park.

Women's Ministry embraces our core value of EXPLORATION. Our goal is to be intentional as we design events and ministry opportunities for women to come and explore their faith as we FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER. As we experience His love for us, we encourage women and their families to then serve others by using their gifts to respond generously by serving in our church, the community, and as we go out into the world.

COFFEE BREAK

Five times a year, hundreds of women gather in the worship center to hear the heart of a WACC woman as she shares God's story through her journey. Often these speakers touch on topics and issues that are not always talked about in a typical church setting.

MOPS

MOPS nourishes lifelong Christian friendships, offers mentoring relationships, and introduces many women to Jesus. Along with the warm community environment MOPS itself provides, it is used as a stepping stone for women and their families to plug into regular church attendance, join a small group and attend Bible study.

SALVATION ARMY-TLC SERVE PROJECT

We invited the women and their children from TLC onto our campus for a day of pampering for mom, haircuts for all, lunch and a family photo shoot. With the help of many volunteers we were able to love on all who came and they were able to experience Jesus' love and acceptance at WACC.

RUN THE RACE

RTR provided WACC women and their families and pooches the opportunity to raise money in support of spiritual and physical health for women in our community. With the support of generous community sponsors and participants, this event brought in over \$16,000.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT

Rebekah Lyons delivered an inspiring Christmas message of God's love for us and the importance of knowing our purpose as women. The APU Men's Chorale serenaded us into an intimate time of worship. Vendors with purpose filled the lobby and sold items to assist with financial stability for women around the world who are vulnerable to slave trafficking or bondage. This event also offered opportunities for women to take the next step in their spiritual walk by committing or recommitting themselves to Christ and by inviting women to attend one of our Christmas Eve services.

QUILTS AROUND THE WORLD

This quilting ministry continued to bless people all around the world. Each quilt is carefully made by several women of all generations.

"I love young women, mothering, praying for and encouraging them. I get so much back from them, I could never have imagined"- Katie Macnider, mentor mom

As we reflect on 2015 we would love to thank all the men who participated in and helped plan and carry out our men's ministries for 2015! We pray that God continues to stir in you....

PASSION

COMMITMENT

TRANSFORMATION

Because ultimately our goal is that everyone gets that much closer to living in the Kingdom of God here on Earth! Everything God desired for us – stems from Him wanting us to live in His Kingdom, in the here & now!

MEN'S BREAKFAST (NARRATION)

This bi-monthly gathering continues to be a safe place where men from our community have the opportunity to eat breakfast together and to hear a man's unique story of God's impact on his life.

D.I.R.T. MEN'S RETREAT (OUTREACH)

This was an amazing time, where men invited their friends & family to get together in the desert for a men's retreat hosted by Hume Lake Christian Camps. Activities included riding, eating, gathering & communicating with each other while being challenged by a great speaker. The men of WACC were also challenged in our group time together to join in on our exploration process if not already in a small group. I have been told by several women from our congregation, "that this single event was the first time their husbands felt connected to others here at WACC" (other than their family of course).

BIBLE STUDIES: (EXPLORATION)

Monday Morning Men's Bible Study (run by Craig Wright & Keith Edwards)

The MOB "Men Of the Bible" (Uptown Whittier YMCA, run by Marty Lonsdale, Roger Pearson & Fred Molter – Wednesday nights)

Other small groups or Bible studies continue to meet men in powerful ways through community, support & God's word.

The past year has been one of new vision, growth in community, and the launching of WACC's first ever Internship Program for young adults. In each of the events and programs we've hosted, our hope has been to create a safe space for young adults to grow deeper roots in Christ, while cultivating friendship and memories with each other.

OUR NEW VISION:

The name we've chosen for the college and young adult ministry, 1825, is reflective of both our target age demographic (18-25 year olds), as well as our ministry vision taken from Matthew 4:18-25, where Jesus invites people to follow Him as a disciple, join the small tribe of other disciples on His mission, and bring healing to the nations. This vision reflects WACC's Core Values of: Narration, Exploration, and Celebration, and each have corresponding goals:

1. To draw young adults to participate in WACC's 5pm Worship Service.
2. To invite young adults into smaller groups where they can be known and cultivate friendship and memories, (1825 Gathering, community groups, Dodgers games, dinner and games on the lawn, coffee crawl, concerts, Worship Nights, etc.)
3. To invite them to serve within our church, and in our community. (Internship Program, Mexico Missions Trip, URM, Serve Weekend, and various volunteer roles)

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We completed our first session of WACC's young adult Internship program, where we hired sixteen young adults to serve in ministries throughout the church.

CAMPING

We went on a camping trip to Hume Lake, where twenty-four students grew in Christ, and were refreshed by the time away. This built a strong sense of community for our group.

WEEKLY GATHERING

We hosted anywhere from 15 - 55 young adults at our weekly gatherings, where we ate dinner, worshiped God through music, and discussed that week's sermon.

FELLOWSHIP EXCURSIONS

We've logged many hours together, exploring LA by train, playing lawn games, sitting around the campfire, drinking the best coffee we can find, all while sharing our hopes, dreams, goals, triumphs, and failures, seeking to grow with one another and in Christ.

"The encouragement that this group brings me, keeps me motivated as I serve each week in the Worship ministry." - Anonymous

"I really appreciate the intentionality to bring God's presence into our discussions." - Anonymous

"This is so adventurous! I've never taken the train anywhere!" - Anonymous

Our greatest measure of success has been the consistent participation of HSM Staff in the lives of students.

SMALL GROUPS

We know that at the core of our ministry we have Small Groups. Small Groups is more than a weekly event, it is Exploration in action. It is sharing life as a community, while we encourage one another in our faith. This is no small task, it requires vulnerability, hope, and resilience. We are thankful to have a staff that is marked by these traits. Our students have followed them in the same suit, they are a hope filled, vulnerable, and resilient group. We celebrate this, knowing that these are the tools they need to endure life as a faith community. This sharing of life and faith far exceeds our one night a week on WACC's campus. We see examples of our staff encouraging students all over the place.

STUDENTS IN SERVICE

In response to these relationships and the sharing of life, we are seeing more and more students putting Celebration into action. A great example of this is at IFC. IFC is the Inter-Faith Food Center in Santa Fe Springs, they serve a community of low income families. Throughout 2015, students with staff have been volunteering every month at this facility serving in a wide range of roles, from packaging and sorting to handing out food to IFC's guests. This is a place where students and staff experience a different reality of life. They strive to instill joy to those whom they meet here. We are thankful to see them changing the world as they respond generously with lives marked by service.

STUDENTS IN WORSHIP

There is something contagious and exciting about seeing a community in action like this. As our HSM family explores faith together and responds generously to those in our path, we are also seeing our corporate worship grow. This is Narration in action. Here we engage with God's story and talk about how we find our place in it. Just like everything else we do, this is much more expansive than just a weekly meeting in the gym. We begin to look our lives differently as we see the larger narrative that we as a community and individuals are being invited into. We are thankful to see students taking God's invitation to live a life of depth and purpose.

"Nothing I love more than sitting down with one of my favorite senior girls from WACC and talking about their testimony, so that they can put it into words for their Application to BIOLA. #comingfullcircle BIOLA admissions I am basically doing half of your work for you. You're welcome." - Devan Sanchez, 1/8/16.

God has been incredibly faithful this last year in the ways that he has worked through the Jr. High Ministry at WACC. We have seen highlights within WACC's Core Value areas of Narration, Exploration, and Celebration over the past year.

FOLLOWING GOD

Within Narration, twenty-four Jr. High students were baptized in 2015. Fifteen students shared their testimonies at programs such as TNL, Next Generation Worship Night, and FAD. Ten students accepted Jesus for the first time, and more than seventy students made decisions to rededicate their lives to Christ at FAD, Summer Camp, and Winter Camp. During our "All In" series at WACC, Jr. High kids posted more than 150 posts to Instagram with the hashtag "#allinatwacc," which allowed students to share God's story in their lives through social media. Several Jr. High students said that they have gained a fuller understanding of God's story over the last year through their involvement with WACC's Jr. High Ministry.

LOVING PEOPLE

Within the Core Value area of Exploration, more than 85 students follow Jesus together through attending small groups at our weekly small group gathering, TNL. After battling cancer this past year, one student shared that she came to know Jesus through her involvement with WACC. She wrote, "The Junior High Ministry has improved my life by establishing a relationship with God. I personally never had a relationship with Him until I started going to TNL." Shane Esber, a Jr. High volunteer staff member, said, "Every week, I have the privilege of seeing and being part of three different types of relationships that thrive between students and other students, students and staff members, and staff members with each other. It is such an

amazing thing to witness these three types of interactions where we all share the same passion to worship and serve Christ. Through these strong relationships that are continually growing, this ministry has taught and given me more courage to share the gospel of Jesus [...] This ministry has impacted my faith integrity and personhood in such an amazing, unforgettable way that I can't express my gratefulness enough of having the privilege of being a part of it."

CHANGING THE WORLD

One of the biggest areas of growth over the last year has been in students responding generously to what Jesus has done for them through celebration in serving. The Jr. High Ministry had a team of thirteen people serve on a missions trip on a Navajo Indian Reservation. Twenty-three Jr. High kids serve on a regular basis through volunteering with the worship band, announcements, WACC's Children's Ministry, and handing out the "Give Your Time" flyers in the worship center lobby. During WACC's first Community Group launch week, forty-eight Jr. High kids served by handing out Community Group guidebooks and greeting. Students cooked dinner (spaghetti) for an adult community group. Students have also served at Coffee Break and through greeting at the 5pm service.

"Before WACC, I [...] didn't really understand who Jesus and God were, but then once I got introduced to WACC, I had learned who Jesus and God were [...] It has helped me grow an even larger relationship with the Lord. I've also created some amazing relationships with some new people. This also includes some life changing experiences like the Navajo trip and winter camp."
-Sadie Lin

"WACC Jr. High Ministry has helped me form a healthy and strong relationship with God. Small groups has given me the support that I need [...]
I know my friends from church will always be there for me."
-Matthew Gonzalez

EARLY CHILDHOOD WEEKLY PROGRAMS

We offer childcare for Bible studies, Recovery, Alpha, Marriage Core, and MOPS. As our ministries continue to grow, we welcome newcomers to join us in this richly rewarding ministry known as Early Childhood.

BABY DEDICATIONS

We had the privilege of dedicating twenty-four children to the Lord during our weekend services. It was a beautiful celebration of God's grace and extravagant love.

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY MORNINGS

We had the privilege of Telling God's Story, Exploring God's Story Together, and Celebrating with our students every week. We have over forty weekly volunteers who are the heart and soul of our classrooms who help facilitate the hands-on experiences we prepare for our students. One of our volunteers, Beth Miller, shared on Facebook that Kids Church was "The best hour of her week!" It is a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated, faithful, and compassionate volunteers every week.

THE SOURCE

Every Sunday, our 5th and 6th Graders experienced God's Story through teaching and music and were able to explore it in a safe environment with our faithful leaders. In March, we had the privilege of celebrating nineteen students who chose to profess their faith publically through baptism. The Source continues to help students dig deeper into their relationship with Christ and with each other.

VBS

We had nearly 200 volunteers/pastors/staff involved in VBS this year, serving over 400 students. Our small group leaders provided a safe environment to explore God's story in meaningful ways through hands on experiments, small group time, games, and take home crafts. Several families that attended our church for the first time during VBS have come to call WACC their home.

CAMPS

Sixty-one Students along with eight Counselors attended our camps at Forest Home in 2015. We want to offer our heartfelt gratitude to those that contributed to our Camp Scholarship Fund! This fund made it possible for many students to experience God's Story in a powerful way at camp!

"When we walk through Early Childhood on Sundays, we are blessed to witness the interactions between nursery caregivers and children. Comforting crying babies, changing diapers, cleaning up big and little messes, is something that is done with such patience and love. When we hear our gifted teachers telling Bible stories with such passion, it reminds us of why we do what we do. Witnessing teens and young adults stepping up to the plate and taking on leadership roles, tells us that the future of our church is in good hands. Adding to the fold, we have been blessed with 14 additional Sunday volunteers, including junior high, high school and college students, as well as older adults. All in all, we are a multi-generational department."
- Shirley Jones and Mercedes Perez

The Technical Arts Ministry continues to develop and grow, in order to meet the needs of the various ministries that are offered at WACC. As a team, and in concert with dozens of volunteers, we have supported worship services, activities, and special events with a continued high level of excellence, creativity, and dexterity.

STAFF

In 2015, Andrew Swanson was gladly welcomed to our team, and has provided a wealth of talent and ingenuity to our lighting and projection systems. Jesse Ramirez remains our steadfast shepherd of sound, while Ryan Wilson continues to skillfully craft a variety of video content for worship services.

UPGRADES AND PROJECTS

This year, we have been able to engage in a variety of projects to enhance our worship experience at WACC. Through your generosity, we were able to upgrade the sound and lighting in the Worship Center, which allows us to reduce costs and our carbon footprint by utilizing rechargeable battery systems and LED lighting.

LIVE ON THE PATIO

A permanent outdoor sound system was installed on the upper patio to provide an inviting venue for people to worship in community with others.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

We continue to develop new ways to tell God's story and the transforming power that is taking place within our congregation through story videos. Our Family Matters announcement videos continue to be a successful communication tool to pass along important information to the congregation.

LIVE FROM HOME

In 2015, we saw an increase in our online "Live-Streaming" attendance and continue to develop and resource this ministry. We seek to further enhance and upgrade our capabilities to live-stream and provide on-demand access to our worship services.

We are so pleased that people are engaging in Narration, even when distance or circumstance prevents them from visiting our Whittier campus on Sunday. We are grateful to the people of WACC who continue to support the ministry work being done here. We look forward to new opportunities and challenges as God moves through our church.

"This past week I was able to watch the service from the hospital, and today I was not physically ready to go to the campus... but got to see the service online. What a blessing to be able to stay plugged in to what we are doing at WACC!" - Rolland Esslinger

The Sports Ministry offers a unique opportunity to impact the lives of our entire community. Our leagues are open to anyone whether they attend or not - all ethnicities, genders, socio economic status and generations. We strive to provide an opportunity for the community to see Christ in a likeliness that they have possibly never seen.

4G SPORTS

We have 4 simple Goals in place

- Gain Friends
- Gain Skills
- Gain Character
- Gain Christ

OUTREACH

In 2015, we were excited to welcome people from the community into our narration process by hosting one of WACC's Sunday services through "Soccer Sunday". We also had a huge group of volunteers find their fit within the ministry through coaching, refereeing and volunteering in a myriad of other ways; satiating another one of our core values "celebration".

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in knowing more or in getting involved as a volunteer/leader, I would love to meet with you to see how we can serve God and our community together! We typically end up needing to recruit 230+ coaches for 130 new teams per year; we can surely use your help and prayers. We have several hundred children competing each season and I would love nothing more than to see the coaching staff be a representation of our community, so please consider volunteering as a coach and making a difference.

GRATITUDE

A HUGE thank you to all of you who supported this ministry through finances, prayer and your physical presence. Together we hosted approximately 3,500 people in the gym each week; we raised approximately \$225,000 through league fees, the golf fundraiser and personal donations which allowed us to pay out that same amount in expenses. THANK YOU & God bless you!

"The greatness of WACC youth sports is the growth of our youth. Three years ago, I coached a boy named Billy who was new to basketball. It was fun to see him learn the basic fundamentals along with character/sportsmanship through our weekly devotionals and developmental training. Now, Billy is in High School and recently returned to take part in our annual youth hoops player's clinic. To see Billy come back, share his passion, and help our youth is the spirit of God working within him." - WACC Coach

The Finance and Administration team at WACC is committed to conducting the operations of ministries in a manner that reflects biblical truths. The apostle Paul said it so well: "...we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men" (2 Corinthians 8:21 NIV). When it comes to financial accountability we believe in going the second mile in reporting to our donors. We believe in truthfulness and full disclosure to the congregation about how money was or will be used. We believe good financial accountability gives our congregation comfort knowing their tithes and contributions are used properly.

	Budget	Actual
General Fund		
Revenue	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 3,172,290
Expenses	3,249,517	3,172,150
Surplus	\$ 483	140
Global Investing		
Revenue	\$ 365,000	\$ 314,847
Expenses	365,000	329,921
Deficit – Transfer from 2014 Global Carryover	-	(15,075)

General Fund and Global Investing Fund financial statements certainly give us insight into where our heart is as a church. When we look at all the funds of the church as a whole we get a better view of where we spend our time, money and energy. The chart below shows how each of our funds represent our values through ministry programs, classes, camps, mission grants, community service, sports leagues, projects, and more.

Spending on our Core Values:	General Fund	Global Investing (Missions)	Activity Funds	Special Purpose Funds	Total All Funds
Narration (Worship & Technical Arts)	145,475	-	4,117		149,592
Exploration/Celebration (Education, Camps, & Care)	95,365	-	200,141	94,593	390,099
Celebration (Global Missions, Community Partnerships)	36,305	211,150	199,802	799,602	1,246,859
Total Direct Programming (does not include personnel costs)	277,145	211,150	404,060	894,195	1,786,550

Another indication of what we value is to understand that in addition to the \$3.5 million given in 2015 for budgeted General Fund and Global Investing Ministries, members and friends of WACC also contributed over \$2.7 million to support many other non-budgeted ministry programs and mission projects, a few of which include:

Contributed to:	2015	2014	2013
Special Offerings	\$ 509,701	\$ 353,711	\$ 247,181
Benevolent Fund	144,222	131,360	119,994
Where Needed Most	330,781	272,157	276,800

Thanks to generous contributions, we were able to PAY OFF our "Now Is the Time" loan in 2015. WACC is Blessed to be Debt Free.

If you would like to talk by phone or in person, about our financial reports, management policies, practices or systems, please contact Sheryl Barnes at 562 945-4500 Ext. 132 or Charmaine Haveles at 562 945-4500 Ext. 111.

**Whittier Area Community Church
General Fund
Statement of Revenues & Expenses (Unaudited)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

	2015				2016	
	Budget	Actual	Variance Revenue	% of Variance	Budget	% of Total Budget
			(Under) Budget Expense Under (Over) Budget			
Revenue	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 3,172,290	\$ (77,710)	(2.4%)	\$ 3,500,000	100%
Expenses						
Narration						
Creative Arts	265,392	263,556	1,836		293,824	8.4%
Technical Arts	165,626	175,296	(9,670)		210,039	6.0%
Total Narration	<u>431,018</u>	<u>438,852</u>	<u>(7,834)</u>	<u>(1.8%)</u>	<u>503,864</u>	<u>14.4%</u>
Exploration						
Care Ministries	158,276	138,105	20,171		171,257	4.9%
Community / Small Groups	133,968	124,853	9,115		184,128	5.3%
Marriage	3,000	902	2,098		3,000	0.1%
Adult Education	1,900	1,792	108		1,900	0.1%
New Horizons	26,785	6,476	20,309		15,713	0.5%
Men	12,411	11,945	466		12,741	0.4%
Women	46,927	40,137	6,790		43,630	1.3%
Courtyard Ministries/Meetings	16,816	18,312	(1,496)		19,998	0.6%
Childcare Services	14,392	13,411	981		15,118	0.4%
Total Exploration	<u>414,475</u>	<u>355,934</u>	<u>58,541</u>	<u>14.1%</u>	<u>467,484</u>	<u>13.4%</u>
Celebration						
Missional Living	84,815	86,298	(1,483)		115,038	3.3%
Mobilization					47,793	1.4%
Total Celebration	<u>84,815</u>	<u>86,298</u>	<u>(1,483)</u>	<u>(1.8%)</u>	<u>162,831</u>	<u>4.7%</u>
Generation						
Early Childhood	99,908	107,767	(7,859)		107,370	3.1%
Elementary	129,851	129,699	152		141,161	4.0%
Junior High	90,451	80,929	9,522		117,931	3.4%
High School	145,077	118,280	26,797		142,707	4.1%
Youth Outreach	6,000	4,921	1,079		6,000	0.2%
College & Young Adult	43,798	45,079	(1,281)		73,430	2.1%
Sports	75,630	75,694	(64)		76,521	2.2%
Total Generation	<u>590,715</u>	<u>562,369</u>	<u>28,346</u>	<u>4.8%</u>	<u>665,119</u>	<u>19.0%</u>
Executive Ministries						
Preaching & Ministry Leadership	459,513	443,830	15,683		419,222	12.0%
Enrichment/Pastoral Education	16,875	8,848	8,027		16,875	0.5%
Board Discretionary	15,000	3,972	11,028		10,000	0.3%
Total Executive Ministries	<u>491,388</u>	<u>456,649</u>	<u>34,739</u>	<u>7.1%</u>	<u>446,097</u>	<u>12.8%</u>
Operations						
Accounting & Finance	450,976	450,768	209		453,765	13.0%
Office Administration	68,000	69,647	(1,647)		68,000	1.9%
Technology Services	110,168	107,058	3,110		110,168	3.2%
Communications	103,306	110,885	(7,579)		115,513	3.3%
Development	44,312	43,296	1,016		9,103	0.3%
Total Operations	<u>776,762</u>	<u>781,654</u>	<u>(4,892)</u>	<u>(0.4%)</u>	<u>756,549</u>	<u>21.6%</u>
Building & Grounds	<u>460,344</u>	<u>490,393</u>	<u>(30,049)</u>	<u>(6.5%) *</u>	<u>498,056</u>	<u>14.2%</u>
Total General Fund Expenses	<u>3,249,517</u>	<u>3,172,150</u>	<u>77,367</u>	<u>2.4%</u>	<u>3,500,000</u>	<u>100%</u>
Surplus	<u>\$ 483</u>	<u>\$ 140</u>	<u>\$ (343)</u>		<u>\$ 0</u>	

* \$37,656 Overage approved by Congregational Vote - November 15, 2015



WHITTIER AREA
COMMUNITY CHURCH