

Annual Report – 2017

April 2018

Dear Hope Church Family,

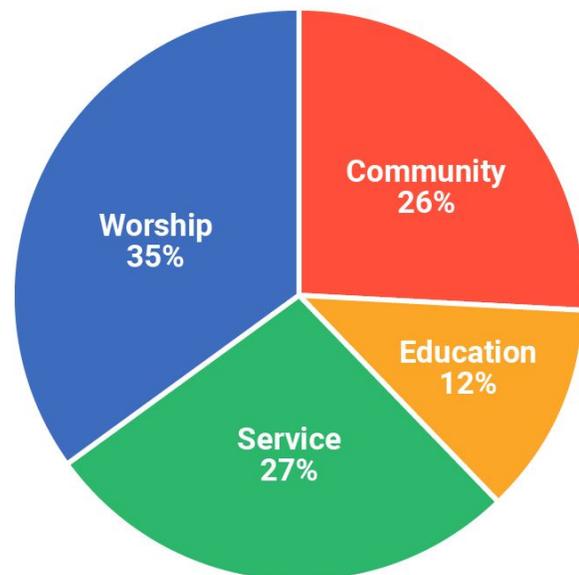
My grandmother would sit at the end of the table like the “Queen Mum” to pour tea and serve pie. Pecan, mincemeat, pumpkin and apple pies were served with a side of whipped cream. The same jokes were told about who would have two small pieces rather than one big one; and as we offered thanks for an abundance of love, homemade pies were cut up into pieces.

Let that serve as an image for this annual financial report.

At Hope we organize our life around four themes that find their rooting in Philippians 2:1-11: Worship, Community, Education, and Service. We try not to do more than those four themes; we try not to do less. We don’t emphasize one theme over the other; in living out our calling as Christ-followers we try to be faithful in each area. Think of them as slices of a pie....

In 2017 we took in \$552,000 and we had expenses of \$539,000. We closed the year with a surplus of \$13,000. If you cut up our expenses using our four organizing themes you almost get a balanced cut of pie.

- **Worship** (pastor’s compensation, musicians, liturgy and music committee, facilities enhancement, etc.) accounts for 35% of the whole.
- **Community** (property expenses, technology, administrative salaries, etc.) is a 26% slice.
- **Service** (outreach ministries, missionary support, Classical and Denominational ministry shares, etc.) is 27% of the pie.
- **Education** (Christian school support, education programs, and the mortgage on the building addition, etc.) accounts for the remaining 12%.



That is a wonderfully big rich whole pie. Circumstances may dictate other ways to divide the pie. But for now, while not a goal, the relative balance between the pieces can be seen as a sign of good health. Thanks be to God.

What is remarkable to me is that on top of our General Fund giving we also took in \$86,000 in second and special offerings. Those gifts go through Hope and out to ministries like World Renew, Elim, Roseland Christian Ministries, etc. That means that we sent out better than \$235,000 in service to Christ's church around the world. Think of those second gifts as the whipped cream on the side....

My grandfather sat at the other end of that long dining room table. While praying before the meal he often wiped away a tear of gratitude for the abundance. I hope you'll join me in a prayer of thanksgiving for abundant life at Hope Church. Financial health is just one measure but we have much for which to give thanks. 2018 will hold its own challenges and needs, but for today I'll have a piece of pie with a side of thanksgiving.

Thanks be to God,

Roger Nelson

On behalf of the Finance Committee