

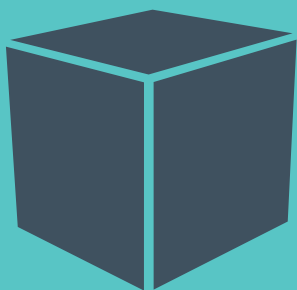
2016 Annual Report

**FAMILY**



**MEETING**

Looking Back, Moving Forward



connecting  
people  
to Jesus  
for  
transformed  
lives

## CORNERSTONE CORE VALUES

### **Seek What is Lost**

*We focus on helping people find their way to God.  
Luke 19:10*

### **Stand Together**

*We pursue unity, work collaboratively and hold things loosely.  
Ecclesiastes 4:12*

### **Take the Next Step**

*We commit to grow personally and spiritually to be more like Christ.  
Ephesians 4:15-16*

### **Get Out of the Boat**

*We trust God, take risks, and embrace failures.  
Matthew 14:28*

### **Get Messy**

*We courageously meet people where they are, walking in grace and truth.  
John 1:14*

### **Pay the Price**

*We give up things we love for things we love even more.  
Luke 9:24*

### **Walk in Truth**

*We always ask, "What does the Bible say?"  
2 Corinthians 6:7, 2 Corinthians 13:8, 2 Timothy 2:15*

### **Pour it Out**

*We give our best for God because He gave His best for us.  
Colossians 3:23*

Hey Cornerstone,

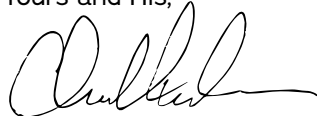
What a joy it has been to be your pastor in 2016! We have had some great times this past year. We've loved celebrating with you all in so many ways. My family and I are truly blessed to call Cornerstone and the Metro East home. The roots we have established are felt in very real ways. I'm so glad to say Cornerstone continues to be one of the friendliest and most welcoming churches I know. You guys truly are "A People Who" embrace the values we will be laying out in the first part of 2017.

We started 2016 with a major emphasis on prayer (Moving Mountains) and as I look back it is very clear that God used that time as a catalyst to propel Cornerstone in the right direction throughout 2016. It didn't come without its challenges, but as a part of Cornerstone you made it all possible. Your generosity led to exceeding our budgeted needs, your sacrifice led to people placing their hope in Christ for the first time, your willingness to hold things loosely led to more first time guests, children, and students hearing the gospel and their lives being transformed. You have paid the price for so many and I'm grateful to be a part of a church that is so focused on the mission. I fully believe it all started with our posture of prayer.

The information you're about to read in this report is a snapshot of one year in the life of our church. It's not comprehensive by any means. There are so many stories from 2016 that we simply cannot tell them all here. However, our hope is that it will help you understand the scope of what God is doing here at Cornerstone. We serve a great God and He is doing and will continue to do great things at Cornerstone as long as we are a people who...

My prayer is that as you read this report you will commit to Cornerstone and the work to which God has called us. Please join me in praying and working to make 2017 Cornerstone's best year yet. I truly believe the best is yet to come!

Yours and His,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris VandeLinde", written in a cursive style.

Chris VandeLinde

Dear Cornerstone Family,

As you read through the 2016 Annual Report, I am confident you will see just how much God has truly blessed Cornerstone Christian Church! As I did last year, I challenge you to pray daily for Cornerstone, and ask God how He can use you to be “A People Who.”

2016 was an absolutely awesome year for Cornerstone. 73 people were baptized. We were able to give away 8% of our budgeted expenses to missions. This was a true blessing as we had only budgeted 7%. 106 people committed to stand together with other Cornerstone members by making Cornerstone their church home. Over 480 people took the next step and volunteered in 2016.

As an elder, it is exciting to see how God is using the staff members who joined us in 2016. We added Aaron Hanson (High School Minister), Brandon Aarrested (Creative Arts Pastor), Dan Drake (Media Minister), and Patrick Wheeler (Family/Middle School Pastor). If you haven't already done so, take a couple of minutes to seek these folks out and say hello. I know they would love to meet you.

We launched Care Night in August and jumped into getting messy with those who are hurting and in need of a place that offers comfort while having someone walk with them in truth and grace.

We did experience a few challenges in 2016 with the departure of six staff members. While change is inevitable and saying goodbye is never fun, we recognize that God was and is at work in each of these circumstances.

We are very excited to see and experience what God has planned for us this year! We are trusting in our faithful God. In fact, we have committed to giving 9% of our budget to our mission partners this year, which is a 2% increase from last year.

I want to encourage you to pay the price by continuing to faithfully tithe with your time, talent, and treasures. If you have not taken this next step, I ask you to pray about it, trust God, and see for yourself just how much He will bless you.

As we begin this year, the staff and elders are committed to making Cornerstone's Values an integral part of our daily lives. We ask that you join us in this journey to connect people to Jesus for transformed lives. We look forward to being “A People Who” in 2017 and beyond.

Dave Watson  
Chairman of the Elders

# 2016 STATISTICS

## Average Weekly Attendance

1,216

2015

1,272

2016

## First Time Guests

481

2015

469

2016

## New Members

52

2015

106

2016

## Baptisms

94

2015

73

2016

## Families Financially Supporting Cornerstone

766

2015

721

2016

## Volunteers

660

2015

480

2016

Thank You for Being  
Cornerstone!

# SERMON SERIES



# LIFE GROUPS



Life Groups are an essential part of Cornerstone Christian Church and our mission to see lives transformed. At the end of 2016 we had 35 life groups meeting all over the Metro East to be the gospel in our neighborhoods.

If you would like more information about life groups

please visit [onecornerstone.org/thehub](http://onecornerstone.org/thehub) or contact [lifegroups@onecornerstone.org](mailto:lifegroups@onecornerstone.org).

# MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Cornerstone Men's and Women's ministry offered 17 different Bible Studies that took over 200 people deeper in their faith as they studied the Bible together.

Aside from Bible Studies, both Cornerstone Men's and Women's ministry offered several gatherings and outings throughout 2016 to encourage and enrich our men and women in Christian fellowship. To get connected with these ministries so you don't miss out in 2017, sign up at

[onecornerstone.org/TheHub](http://onecornerstone.org/TheHub)

Cornerstone Men leads an annual mission trip to one of our local mission partners-- Bond Christian Service Camp. This year they were able to build a deck and help create a beach.



# CORNERSTONE KIDS



In 2016 Cornerstone Kids continued to take steps forward even as we continued to look for a Children's Minister to lead our children's area. We have been blessed by volunteers stepping up to make sure our kids heard the gospel in a relevant way each and every weekend of 2016. We launched kid's worship that transformed the group time and made it interactive by allowing the kids to lead their peers in worship. Test Drive was developed as a way to recruit volunteers and help increase volunteer engagement.

## Average Weekly Attendance

258

2015

273

2016

## Volunteers

92

2015

234

2016

Each week Cornerstone Kids take up an offering to support one of our mission's partners. In 2016, our kids gave \$1,071 to our partners.

If you would like to learn more about what goes on in Cornerstone Kids, sign up for our Family Enews at [onecornerstone.org/TheHub](http://onecornerstone.org/TheHub)



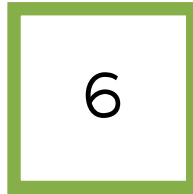
# CORNERSTONE STUDENTS

We saw great things happening through our Student Ministry in 2016. Our students are living out Cornerstone Values like never before. These students are walking in truth and seeking the lost as they lead First Priority clubs in the Metro East. They stand together each week as they serve in our church in a variety of ways. They are taking the next step by going on missions trips. They are pouring it out each week so their friends can understand the hope that can only be found in Christ.

In January of 2016, Aaron Hanson joined our staff as the new High School Pastor. With this change of leadership came some changes in High School Ministry (HSM). In September, HSM transitioned from having “Breakthrough” meet on Thursday evenings to HSM meeting on Sunday evenings. This gave students the opportunity to worship with their families and get involved in other ministries during the weekend.

If you would like to learn more about what goes on in Cornerstone Students, sign up for our Family Enews at [onecornerstone.org/TheHub](http://onecornerstone.org/TheHub)

## Student Life Groups



MSM

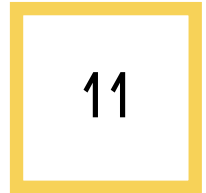


HSM

## Student Baptisms



MSM



HSM



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

The mission of Cornerstone is to connect people to Jesus for transformed lives. As a church we desire to partner with great missions organizations to see that happen on a local, domestic, and global basis. By partnering with these missions organizations, our goal is to be a resource both financially and physically through volunteering and praying for these ministries.

## LOCAL OUTREACH

In 2016 we added two new partners to expand our missions outreach. With this addition, we focused heavily on supporting the next generation in our church.

- o CIY is an organization designed to amplify the call on students' lives to become Kingdom workers through trips, events, and resources.
- o First Priority is an organization uniting the church to impact the school campuses for Christ. The local chapter of this ministry was launched by Sean Hall, our former High School pastor.



Along with these additions, we were able to partner and participate in several ways throughout the local area.

## Sacks of Summer

Ten times during the summer of 2016, Cornerstone volunteers packed over 1000 sack lunches and delivered them in low income areas of our community.

## His Hands Homeless Outreach

- o Once a month, on a Saturday, a group of volunteers from Cornerstone Christian Church heads to different homeless communities in St Louis to hand out food, clothes, toiletries, and to pray with people in need.
- o In 2016 you provided over 100 backpacks full of toiletries, clothing, and food during Christmas to help minister to the homeless people His Hands encounters.

## Beacon

Beacon coordinates a local furniture warehouse to help families obtain new and used furniture. As part of our partnership with Beacon, Cornerstone Men volunteer together to pick-up and deliver furniture at 9am on the third Saturday of each month.

## Baby Bottle Drive

Every January we ask Cornerstone to save their loose change into a baby bottle. These funds go to the Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Center to help mothers as they care for their babies. Last year, \$1,281 was given to this ministry.

## Christmas at CAC & Give-A-Gift

For Christmas, Cornerstone hosted our annual Christmas Party at CAC for 187 people. On top of this, over 50 families that are a part of CAC received Christmas gifts from many generous people of Cornerstone.



## Missions Trip to Bond

In 2016 Cornerstone Men built a bridge to allow better access to the new swimming area, updated the lighting in several buildings, and built a deck.

# INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

## India Mission Trip

For the first time since 2013 Cornerstone had a church sponsored mission's trip. Six people, including Chris, Nicole, and Josh, were able to go to India and serve our missions partners at Central India Christian Mission (CICM) and bring some much needed hospitality to our missionary Josh Howard and his family. The team put on a conference for the local pastors and Bible college students and a VBS program for the children living in the CICM children's home.



## Sierra Circus in Burkina Faso

Chris and Holly Sierra, our mission's partners with SIM in Burkina Faso, Africa came home this year for rest, support raising, language training, and preparation for the next three years of life in Africa. They will be heading to Africa in late 2017 to start a soccer ministry they will use to reach the local people for Christ.



Cornerstone has partnered with many different ministries-- both locally and internationally-- over many years. Here's a review of what Cornerstone has given to our mission partners over the past 2 years:

	2015	2016	
	8,091	6,000	
	7,334	6,586	
	37,883	66,908	
	6,335	11,331	
	7,392	6,000	
	12,272	12,346	

# WEEKEND WORSHIP



In 2016 Cornerstone offered five worship services, four at our Shiloh campus and one online. On the weekend you can find over 200 of our people volunteering in a variety of roles to make the weekend worship experience an easy way to connect people to Jesus for transformed lives. And while each weekend we have over 200 people serving that number does not include the volunteers working behind the scenes or in midweek programs to make each and every week happen. Conservatively, our volunteers gave more than 21,745 hours of service in our church and community in 2016. We are truly blessed to have so many people who are willing to serve Cornerstone and our community.



# CARE NIGHT

Care Night happens each Friday evening at Cornerstone. We offer several different groups in an effort to meet and care for people in the midst of struggles and difficult times. We walk alongside them in dealing with many of the hurts, habits and hang-ups that often cause people to feel alone and isolated.

We currently offer:

- **DivorceCare Group**
- **Anxiety/Depression Recovery for Women**
- **GriefShare Group**
- **Cancer Companions Group**
- **Celebrate Recovery**
- **Foster Care/Adoption Group**
- **Step-Family Care Group**

Since beginning in August 2016, we have completed a full cycle of Divorce Care and many of our other groups. The Divorce Care group created such a bond that they are currently still meeting as a Life Group.

During the Christmas season, we held a special seminar for those that find the holidays to be an especially difficult time for them. This focused on curriculum for DivorceCare and GriefShare, but Care Night opened it up for anyone to come and learn of ways to find joy and receive help during the holiday season.



# FINANCIAL FACTS

<b>Actual Giving</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Giving	\$1,964,026	\$2,159,311
Other	\$87,726	\$112,233
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,051,752</b>	<b>\$2,271,544</b>

<b>Actual Spending</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Capital/Building Loan	\$286,984	\$250,482
Designated Expenses	\$80,256	\$81,375
Facilities & Maintenance	\$68,294	\$70,735
General & Administrative Expenses	\$51,292	\$91,946
Ministry Expenses	\$111,033	\$132,524
Missions Outreach	\$100,885	\$156,994
Staff and Benefits	\$1,132,569	\$1,092,814
Technology	\$42,033	\$22,773
Utilities	\$74,056	\$74,830
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$1,947,402</b>	<b>\$1,974,473</b>

## **Proposed Budget for 2017**

Capital/Building Loan	\$474,382
Designated Expenses	--
Facilities & Maintenance	\$68,206
General & Administrative Expenses	\$82,150
Ministry Expenses	\$129,470
Missions Outreach	\$195,600
Staff and Benefits	\$1,106,253
Technology	\$26,100
Utilities	\$77,156
<b>Total Proposed 2017 Spending</b>	<b>\$2,159,317</b>



# SHARE YOUR STORY

During the year, we started an outlet on The Hub where people were encouraged to share their personal stories of what God has done and is currently doing in their lives. Here is one story that has been shared:

*I grew up in a Christian home, going to church every week and committed my life to Christ at a very young age. During my senior year of high school, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. While that event should have drawn me closer to God, I began to question God's faithfulness and remember asking the question, "Why?" Never feeling like I received a good enough answer, I became angry with God. After undergoing chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplant, my mom would ultimately be declared "cancer free." After going through that event, I entered college and pursued a career that eventually moved me to New Orleans.*

*During this time period, my life began to change. I found myself chasing everything but God. I stopped going to church and really spent little to no time praying or growing in my relationship with Him. That lifestyle eventually left me very lonely and I started trying to find joy and instant gratification in earthly things.*

*At the age of 23, I became pregnant out of wedlock with a guy that I knew very little about, who would try to terminate my pregnancy by persuading me to have an abortion. I knew what God thought about abortion but the uncertainty and fear of what my parents would say almost outweighed that. For the first time in several years, I began to pray and it became clear that abortion was not an option. After communicating that to the guy, he told me that if this was the choice I was going to make, to make sure I understood that this child would never know his father because he was choosing to abandon him. While at that time my heart wanted something different, I said "ok" and found myself going through my pregnancy alone.*

*To much of my surprise, my parents became my biggest supporters. A month after finding out I was pregnant, I had chosen to give my child up for adoption, however, God had different plans. God brought a family friend back into my life after several years, who was adopted, and I began to have conversations with her, that would eventually lead me*

to the decision to keep my son. On December 23, 2013, Levi was born. Shortly after having Levi, I recommitted my life to Christ.

*While my circumstances haven't changed, I have hope in knowing that God's plan is for me and it is good. Last school year, a student of mine made a significant impact in my life that would eventually lead me to Cornerstone. Since then, her mother and I have become great friends and God has used her in significant ways to draw me closer to Him. Walking through the doors of a church as a single mom brought me tremendous fear, but here at Cornerstone, I was welcomed and faced no judgement. Since I started attending in June, my life has been transformed. I pray every day that God would use my situation to impact the lives of others.*

*For the longest time, I constantly told myself, "I'm no good. There's no way God would ever want to use me. I'm just a single mom who has completely screwed up and is broken beyond repair." The truth of the matter is we are all broken and God longs for the broken to be made whole again, through Him. Jesus died on the cross so that each and every one of us could know Him. I am nothing without Him and while some days I still question God's plan for myself and Levi, I have a sense of peace in knowing that even through the storm, He is Lord. I pray that God would use my testimony to give others that same hope and love that only Jesus can offer. There's nothing that you have done or will ever do, that will make God not love you. There's never been a moment that I was not loved by Him. His grace is enough and on days that I fear the future and I hurt, I continue to fight and remain joyful that my God will come through. God has done amazing things in my life that only He can do. And that changes everything!*



If you would like more details about "Share Your Story" or would like to submit a story, visit [onecornerstone.org/TheHub](http://onecornerstone.org/TheHub).

# WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

## **Asking** exploring the claims of Jesus

- **Attend a Baptism Class**

March 12 is our next baptism class where we will dig into what the Bible says about baptism and why it is an important step for each person to take.

## **Believing** connecting to Jesus

- **Join a Life Group**

As mentioned earlier, Cornerstone offers about 35 life groups. Life Groups are a great way to get plugged into the church, meet people, and grow in your faith. If you have any questions about life groups, contact [lifegroups@onecornerstone.org](mailto:lifegroups@onecornerstone.org).

## **Following** being transformed by Jesus

- **Volunteer to Serve**

Cornerstone runs on the power of volunteers and we desire to see every member serving somewhere. Talk to a ministry leader present today to get involved.

- **Try the 90 Day Giving Challenge**

We believe God will keep His Promise in Malachi 3:10 when His people tithe. If not, we will refund you 100% of your tithe without questions. For more information contact [giving@onecornerstone.org](mailto:giving@onecornerstone.org).

## **Sharing** leading others to Jesus

- **Host a Life Group**

HOST: Have a HEART for people, OPEN their home, SHARE a snack, and TELL some friends.

