

**State of Church Message 2018**  
**1/7/18**

(Scripture on screen)

***"...From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected." Luke 12:48b CSB***

Each year at this time we stop to celebrate the lives of those who walked with us on this journey but have since went on to their heavenly reward:

Ralph Thompson  
Edwina Cranfield  
Joanne Harris  
Marsha Boudrie  
Brenda Sisson  
Dalton Lard  
Dr. Harry Jackson  
Carl Sisemore  
Christy Viens  
Margaret Rhea Sisemore  
Jimmie Johnson  
Betty Warren  
Hazel Chapman

Pray

Let's take a fair and accurate appraisal of where we are.

In our Pre-school Ministry Dawn has 12 classes of 6 week to preschool age children who meet on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

In our Children's Ministry area LeaAnn has over 200 children and leaders each Sunday. Through the Children's Ministry we saw 29 school age children believe in Christ and follow through with baptism.

In September we hosted an area wide crusade with Team Impact where we saw 78 people come to know Christ and 32 were baptized.

Our Middle School Ministry under Tyler Worley's leadership had 2 events where 8 middle school students accepted Christ.

High School Ministry, led by Drew Clayton, has seen 25 students give their lives to Christ followed by believer's baptism.

Our College Ministry is experiencing incredible growth under Jason Dildine. We have had several college age students come to know Christ in 2017 and the small group attendance has doubled in the past year.

Tyler Shannon has led our Young Adults Ministry to have 2 marriage gatherings exceeding 200 participants. A new 20 somethings group was started in 2017 and is growing strong along with a new young adults ladies small group meeting on Sunday morning.

Pastor Fred reports that the Choir and Orchestra Ministry has had a great spiritual awakening in the last 8 months or so and many are returning to that ministry.

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Dallas Bay Church baptized 113 in 2017, a substantial increase over the 78 in 2016 and 92 in 2015.

We had 178 to join our fellowship by becoming members which makes a total increase of 840 new members in the last 4 years. Our total membership now sits at 3,791.

Financially Dallas Bay Church received \$4,325,000 in undesignated gifts in 2017. Total offerings (designated and undesignated combined) was \$4,584,481, up from \$3,600,000 in 2016.

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Missions giving in 2017 amounted to over \$200 K with the two large amounts being \$35 K to the Cooperative Program. Our international missions offering was \$22,800. Over \$32 K to our food pantry called Joseph's Storehouse. In 2017 we ministered to 1,985 people in this ministry which is an increase of 400 over 2016, and over 1,000 more than two years ago (891). Through the Supperman Club Dallas Bay volunteers delivered over 3,000 lunches to cancer patients receiving treatment in Chattanooga.

Cathy Hodnett reported that 2017 was an exciting year for Women's Ministry. We started a new ministry this year to our Moms called Mom2Mom. It's an opportunity for moms to gather for a couple of hours once a month have a devotional and create a cool craft and make friends. We also hosted nationally recognized women's speaker Lisa Harper this fall where 6 women gave their lives to the Lord.

Our Men's Ministry hosted UTC's wrestling coach, Heath Eslinger this fall where 113 men attended. This February our men will host Bob Reccord, author and former president of NAMB for an area wide men's conference.

Finally, last year I announced our new vision statement: Discovering God, Becoming Family and Caring for People! In that message I explained all the changes we were going to make in our grounds and in our worship center. The worship center now allows us to have a better video picture for the majority of people who are now visiting us the first time from their laptop or tablet. The work on the outside has begun with our new sign and some landscaping. Much more will be done to our exterior as money becomes available.

What about 2018?

We are working diligently to make Dallas Bay Academy a reality. We will be meeting again this week to determine the progress we have made thus far in achieving that goal.

The Governing Documents Task Force has been meeting for months now and plans to present documents by late Spring for the congregation to examine. These documents will bring our procedures in line to meet the challenges of the great church Dallas Bay has become.

By February 1, 2018 we intend to launch the new Dallas Bay Church YouTube channel. This will give us one more tool to reach into our culture with good news of Jesus Christ. By summer I should have a studio to produce a podcast called "All Things Spiritual" to reach even deeper into the darkness of this lost world with the hope of Jesus Christ.

With numerous new housing developments under construction around us we are working to develop a marketing strategy to reach these new residents. Beyond the new housing developments we have come to realize that as a church we are one of the best kept secrets in our city. Soon we will be developing an advertising campaign to get our name out there. If you work in marketing or advertising, and would like to be a part of this campaign, please send me an email. I would love to hear your ideas.

We are finally fully staffed to meet the needs that Christ has laid at our door. We have a staff of ministers, directors and volunteers second to none. Our deacons are leaning more into ministering to our church family than ever before. With ministry to educators and law enforcement officers Dallas Bay is making an impact into our city far beyond the boundaries of this campus.

To repeat our focus passage,

(scripture on screen)

**"the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected."**

I need you to be more faithful than ever in your consistent prayers, attendance and financial support of Dallas Bay Church. People once committed to a vision. Today people

are committing themselves to worthwhile causes. Dallas Bay Church is the greatest cause I know. Not only are we supporting people in their needs but we are also sharing the good news of eternal life through salvation in Jesus Christ.